

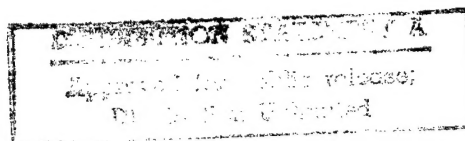
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Latin America Report

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7 June 1984

LATIN AMERICA REPORT

CONTENTS

COUNTRY SECTION

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Briefs

Caribbean Phone Book 1

ANTIGUE AND BARBUDA

Hall, Walter Preelection Maneuvers Traced, Analyzed
(THE WORKERS VOICE, 7 Apr 84)..... 2ACLM Organ Analyzes Breakdown of Opposition Unity Efforts
(CRUSADER, 14 Apr 84)..... 4

Briefs

New Opposition Leader 8

ARGENTINA

Measures To Increase Grain Output Adopted; Prospects Discussed
(Various sources, various dates)..... 9Grinspun Press Conference
Improved Grain Hauling
INTA's Plans for Wheat Season
Increase in Production Costs
Effects of Technological Factor
Increased Soy Production
Estimated Grain Production
Imported Fertilizers

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

Territory Offered Associate Membership in OECS
(THE ISLAND SUN, 7 Apr 84)..... 16

	Inflation Rate Questioned; Government Study Urged (Editorial; THE ISLAND SUN, 14 Apr 84).....	17
CUBA		
	Scant U.S. Aid, Election Delay Cited in Grenada (Earl Bousquet; BOHEMIA, No 14, 6 Apr 84).....	18
	Western Media Accused of Misinformation Barrage (Armando Lopez Rivera; VERDE OLIVO, No 14, 5 Apr 84).....	23
	CDR Directs Neighborhood Tributes for Overseas Service (Ruben Placeres; GRANMA, 20 Apr 84).....	28
	Independent Vendors, Workers Said To Violate Law (Diana Martinez; JUVENTUD REBELDE, 16 Apr 84).....	31
	Journalists Investigate Negligence, Hazards in Workplace (Enrique Valdes Perez; BOHEMIA, No 14, 6 Apr 84).....	33
DOMINICA		
	DLP Demands on UDLP Said To Wreck Unity of Labour (THE NEW CHRONICLE, 20 Apr 84).....	46
	Labour Split Poses Dangers for 'Serious Opposition' (Editorial; THE NEW CHRONICLE, 27 Apr 84).....	48
	Briefs	
	New Police Commissioner	50
GUYANA		
	Preparations For, Outcome of Peace Meeting Reported (GUYANA CHRONICLE, various dates).....	51
	GCSP Program	
	Planned Rallies	
	Foreign Delegates at Rallies	
	Cubans in Linden	
	Congress Declaration	
	Amazonian Cooperation Committee Discusses Programs (GUYANA CHRONICLE, 15 Mar, 6 Apr 84).....	55
	Meeting Plans	
	Review of Local Input	

Heads of Missions Back for Conference, Hear Leaders (Various sources, various dates).....	57
Preparations for Meeting Burnham Address Meeting With Officials	
Government Pledges Continued Support to Commonwealth (GUYANA CHRONICLE, 13 Mar 84).....	60
Cuba Provides Assistance to Dairy, Cattle Industries (NEW NATION, 15 Apr 84).....	62
New Trawler Received But Another Disappears at Sea (GUYANA CHRONICLE, 16 Apr 84).....	63
Bail Denied Four Charges in Finance Ministry Fraud (GUYANA CHRONICLE, 5 Apr 84).....	65
Police Baton Squad To Go After Young Loiterers; WPA Objects (NEW NATION, 8 Apr 84; CATHOLIC STANDARD, 15 Apr 84).....	66
Threat From Green WPA Protest	
Human Rights Group Condemns Random Airport Searches (CATHOLIC STANDARD, 8 Apr 84).....	68
Opposition Elements Rap IMF Talks, Economic Problems (CATHOLIC STANDARD, 8 Apr 84; MIRROR, 15 Apr 84).....	70
Government's Failure, by Ron Pieters Jagan Condemnation Impact of Parallel Market PNC Flirtation With Imperialism, Editorial	
Guysuco Admits Taking Action Against NAACIE Strikers (CATHOLIC STANDARD, 15 Apr 84).....	75
PPP Reports, Condemns Conservative Party Activities (MIRROR, 8, 15 Apr 84).....	76
Party's Invitation to U.S. Denunciation by Overseas Guyanese	
PNC General Council Weighs Reorganization, Other Issues (Various sources, various dates).....	78
Executive Restructuring Regional Self-Sufficiency	

Plans for Biennial Congress
Council Discussions

Regionalization of Health, Education Ministries Under Way (GUYANA CHRONICLE, 6 Apr 84).....	82
Guysuco Addresses Spare Parts, Personnel Shortage Problems (NEW NATION, 15 Apr 84).....	83
Agricultural Official Kennard Heads GRB Revamping (GUYANA CHRONICLE, 16 Mar 84).....	85
Bauxite Supervisors Union Elects Officers, Holds Talks (GUYANA CHRONICLE, 14 Mar 84).....	86
Briefs	
Labor Union Recognition	87
Region 2 Production Unit	87
Building Costs	87
Guystac Leadership	88
Peoples Courts	88

MEXICO

CRT Head Complains of PRI Leadership Inaccessibility (EXCELSIOR, 11 Apr 84).....	89
Madero: Canales Clariond Is PAN N. L. Gubernatorial Candidate (EL NORTE, 13 Apr 84).....	91
PAN Leader Challenges Plan for Nicaraguan Oil Payments (Pable E. Madero; EL NORTE, 13 Apr 84).....	93
Chiapas: Ejido Peasants Try To Displace Simojovel Indians (EXCELSIOR, 13 Apr 84).....	95
Briefs	
STUNAM Leader's Political Plans	96

NICARAGUA

COSEP's Gurdian Says Another Cuba No Longer Possible (Ramiro Gurdian Interview; LA NACION INTERNACIONAL, 12-18 Apr 84).....	97
Labor Ministry Warns Against Inflationary Wage Boosts (EL NUEVO DIARIO, 24 Apr 84).....	104
Sales Tax Raised on Various Goods, Services (BARRICADA, 25 Apr 84).....	106

COUNTRY SECTION

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

CARIBBEAN PHONE BOOK--THE 1984-85 edition of the Caribbean Telephone Directory is now out. The 784-page business to business directory has been published by the Caribbean Publishing Company [CPC] and is to be distributed free throughout the Caribbean. The publication covers 22 territories in the Caribbean and includes selected listings from Florida, North America and Puerto Rico. The Directory contains the International Direct Dialling Codes, Caribbean Telex Codes, rates and other data, useful information on the region, and yellow pages. [Text] [Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 28 Apr 84 p 1]

CSO: 3298/792

HALL, WALTER PREELECTION MANEUVERS TRACED, ANALYZED

St Johns THE WORKERS VOICE in English 7 Apr 84 p 1

[Text] Robert Hall the Political Leader of the P.L.M. must be wondering what has he done wrong in life. First of all to deserve George Walter and then Charlie and Mackie. He must be the most dumb-founded and saddened man in Antigua and Barbuda today.

But Uncle Robert you should not be surprised because this newspaper warned you about two traitors, whom we refered to as Judases some time ago.

We can visualize how you must be feeling now. After all, both Charlie and Mackie sat on both sides of you at your public meeting on Monday night 2nd April 1984, and both spoke from the P.L.M. platform.

On Tuesday night they were both sitting on the platform of the UPM at the East Bus Station as prospective UPM candidates. Even the ex-convict was too ashamed to introduce them as his U.P.M. candidates so soon, so avoided calling their names. Both Charlies and Mackie should be avoided like the plague by the electorate. They are both like the scum of humanity. No wonder they claim that Robert is so disgusted with the dishonesty of these two scums that he has resigned from politics altogether. At least he knew how he stood with Bird.

Meanwhile 'Paddy James who has turned around his preachers holy collar, and set aside British American Insurance briefcase is vigorously campaigning for Traitor Charlie in the All Saints East/St. Luke seat. Paddy Nathaniel James would have been the U.P.M. candidate in the constituency if Traitor Charlie did not agree to stab his leader in the back. As a matter of fact Preacher Paddy and Georgie gave Traitor Charlie an ultimatum hours before he, like a little shame puppy dog proceed to the platform of the man whom he told the whole nation that nobody can work with and how he also contributed to the cost of the Bagon which Hall took to George to kill the bugs in his cell. Some people have absolutely no shame whatsoever.

Meanwhile it is said that Traitor Mackie would be contesting the St. Mary's North seat even though George said that the candidate would be 'Hip and Drop Simon. These two Traitors should be beaten out of politics once and for all.

Uncle Robert, this newspaper believes that in spite of your numerous differences with Bird, you have done your duty to Antigua and Barbuda and would rather see you bow out now than taint yourself with further association with those Traitors.

George hijacked you once now he has hijacked Aunty man Joe and taken away his constituency. Joe is presently in the U.K. purchasing his campaign material for the April 17th elections. He has already spend thousands of dollars in the Constituency and now has been hijacked in his absence.

George could never change his colours.

CSO: 3298/793

ACLM ORGAN ANALYZES BREAKDOWN OF OPPOSITION UNITY EFFORTS

Castries CRUSADER in English 14 Apr 84 pp 7, 11

[IMPERIALISM STRIKES AGAIN! Antigua's Opposition alliance crumbles a fortnight before elections. The following Editorial is reproduced from OUTLET, organ of the Antigua Caribbean Liberation Movement ACLM. The ACLM has taken a unanimous decision not to contest the elections outside of alliance]

[Text] History turns and returns on itself. The history of Antigua, as part of the history of the Caribbean, is replete with causes betrayed, great opportunities lost, and inexplicable treachery. From Judas in Palestine, to Coard in Grenada down to Hall in Antigua that history of treachery is long and continuous.

On Sunday at 2.00 pm the three leaders of the PLM, ACLM, UPM emerged after three hours of negotiation to announce to their various party delegations, and to a group of young, concerned citizens, that all three leaders had agreed at long last on a United Front. Had agreed as well on the slate of candidates which the United Front would field in the 1984 Elections. The announcement, in a private home, on St John's Street, drew enthusiastic applause. The popular will had triumphed.

That United Front was not the will of the three parties; it was not the will of the individual leaders; it was, and this is most important, the will of every sector, class or group of person who had felt the deterioration, decline and decay in the body politic in the 2 year old Nation-state of Antigua and Barbuda.

Young and old had hoped for it, the mass of powerless and underprivileged expected it, the employed and the unemployed earnestly wished for it, businessmen and worker alike had fervently urged it; the sick who had endured Holberton or feared the absence of basic drugs, as well as the healthy, had fervently prayed for it; the conservative, the moderate and the revolutionary all had agreed it was consummation devoutly to be worked for and brought into being.

Such was the national hope for a United Opposition Front to topple the Bird regime which had made corruption its continuous pre-occupation, deceit its hobby, and maladministration its daily occupation.

On Sunday April 1st, that hope was met by agreement. The caution of the wise who were present prevented an early public announcement. Or else, the public would have felt that an All Fools Day trick, of the worst kind, had been played on them.

By 9.30 p.m that very same Sunday, April 1st 1984, the United Front, the result of the popular will, collapsed like a house of sand before a mere strong breeze. Never before, has so much, that consumed so much political energy, been destroyed ever so quickly.

The Honourable Robert Hall, (and Mr Hall is an honourable man) by telephone told both ACLM political leader, Tim Hector, and UPM political leader George Walter, that the PLM unanimously agreed to proceed no further in this United Front business. No further talks were to be held. All dialogue had ceased. No further compromises could be arrived at. All discussions were fruitless. No dissatisfaction could be satisfied. The die was cast. The Rubicon had been crossed. PLM had crossed the river of no return. The United Front, just after it had taken birth, was shot down and had collapsed in the ashes of its birth. It was a cruel blow. And Mr. Hall, an honourable man, duly apologized for the pain of the blow.

Abruptly week long discussions had ceased. Finished. Conclusively so. Ended. So let it be done, so let it be written.

Why did the PLM do this?

To be fair, they may have felt that the three seats they were allocated if Mr Hall himself were contesting the elections, were not enough. Yet, every single PLM delegate present at the Sunday meeting including PLM Chairman, distinguished barrister Louis Lockhart, including as well, the most significant woman in politics Mrs Catherine Edwards, including too, the well-known and respected Victor Mackay, as well as PLM political leader Robert Hall had agreed on the proposal. It was also agreed, that if the next day the 75 year old Mr Hall made his decision not to personally contest the 1984 General Elections, that the PLM would maintain the candidate in Mr Hall's seat, and PLM representation would have been two.

The PLM may have felt that this was unfair. And if unfair, and if they so deemed, then they should have come up with a new proposal to satisfy their dissatisfaction. They did not. They simply slammed the door shut. The death announcement of the still-born United Front was made at the same time as its burial.

Naturally, both ACLM and UPM felt stabbed in the back. This one, quick, deft stab, cut clean through the jugular. And the victim collapsed 'on the instant Hope was dashed. Corruption alone breathed a sigh of relief.

To be fair too, Mr Hall expressed in a break in the Sunday discussions that he, Mr Hall, was being "bad-played". He felt that a statement by Mr Walter that some of Mr Walter's party supporters who lived in Browne's Avenue would not, in any circumstances, vote for Mr Hall because of Mr Hall's

"uncomplimentary remarks" in the past, was a clear statement that the UPM would not effectively and "fully support" his candidacy. He felt, and expressed the view to Mr Hector, that he was being set up to be disgraced by ending his long career in politics (winning his seat 4 consecutive times in the process) with a stunning defeat. When Mr Hall asked Mr Walter "to be frank" with him, Mr Walter replied that "even in a United Front" Mr Hall would "lose his seat". And this said Mr Walter, adding the coup de grace, was also "the view of PLM leaders" who had told Mr Walter this. If you were there, and you were perceptive, you would know that you had changed places from the light of day to pitch-dark night.

Maybe too, Mr Hector's assurances and re-assurances to Mr Hall that Mr Walter's statements should be taken as frankness, but should not be taken too seriously, did not carry enough weight with Mr Hall. For sure, Mr Hall made Mr Hector to know that he believed every word Mr Walter said and believed them to be Mr Walter's planned intentions.

At any rate Mr Hall, obviously took cold comfort, if any comfort from all this. As he is wont to do, he smiled, made a joke, proceeded with the business, agreeing to everything, objecting to nothing, conceding all that was asked, and the United Front was thus born. Maybe the birth was premature. Maybe this exchange between Mr Walter and Mr Hall, was a Caesarean operation which interrupted the natural birth process and caused death.

Maybe too, Mr Hall, Prime Minister Bird and the Puppet Master, had long agreed that there would be no United Front. Certainly Mr Hall's printed announcement in the Government's Newspaper that there would be no United Front gives credence to that view. Certainly too, Mr Hall's Radio announcement, in his own voice, that PLM and UPM, but not ACLM had arrived at a decision to go it together for the 1984 General Elections, was designed to make mischief and spread discord. Mr Hall's Radio announcement had no basis in fact. When that ploy failed what else was there to do?

The psychological operations experts went to work. They gave their instructions: Reach agreement and then reject everything once and for all. The guided missile was thus targeted. In fact it was a neutron bomb, it destroyed the property of the United Front and left the people stranded.

Certainly too, the fact that the ALP Manifesto, printed and published long before the Sunday meeting of PLM, ACLM, and UPM, shows clearly that the ruling party knew that Hall would not be in the United Front and so the ALP manifesto attacks the "Hector-Walter Combination". The ruling ALP therefore knew in advance that Hall would not be in a United Front. They knew. How did they know? Hall told them so, assured them and re-assured them. That is the only conclusion.

To be sure, Vere Bird Jnr was the conduit between Hall and the Bird regime.

Why then was Hall that devious? It is known that since 1956 and continuously thereafter Hall has opposed Bird. It is known that Hall would not sell himself or his party for money. He is above that, by his own means, and his own

character. Hall himself has worked hard and is the best livestock farmer in this country. No man or woman has ever bought a favour of him or for him. He is above that. Hall is not vain, not puffed up, not a boaster, and definitely not a conspicuous consumer. His wealth to him is purely incidental. He was and is a good, humble and upright citizen, a loving husband, a dear father, a direct and plain-spoken man, who loves God, has mercy, and treasures justice.

Why did he then at the very close of his career, invade and destroy the hopes of so many? Did he feel he was doing the will of those whom he supported in another invasion? Was he made to feel by another nation who had engaged in a similar mission, that he was "rescuing" Antigua from some real or imagined danger. No doubt Hall was so persuaded. Therefore this piece of treachery from him. A foreign power had guided and misguided him. Not Hall, but Antigua and Antiguan suffered.

In the end Hall had upheld the hand and power of Bird, to which blight he had sought to apply a strong pesticide for many years. Hall, like Bird, has become his opposite. It is an unfortunate closing chapter. A most treacherous and tragic end.

Antigua and Barbuda, its people demoralised by hopes betrayed, by missions of mercy which were merciless, with the missionaries turned grabbers and marauders, will overcome all this and more.

The people will overcome Corrupt Puppet, and Puppet Master, in the fulness of time. The people organised will win. Change will come. Weeping endures for a night. Joy cometh in the morning.

CSO: 3298/793

BRIEFS

NEW OPPOSITION LEADER--It is understood that the Governor General called upon the only non ALP member to be elected to parliament, Barbudan born Eric Burton to become Leader of Her Majesty's loyal opposition. This newspaper wishes to congratulate Eric Burton on his wise decision to co-operate with Antigua. And also to the people of Barbuda for rejecting the secessionist minded Hilbourne Frank. [Text] [St Johns THE WORKERS VOICE in English 28 Apr 84 p 6]

CSO: 3298/793

MEASURES TO INCREASE GRAIN OUTPUT ADOPTED; PROSPECTS DISCUSSED

Grinspun Press Conference

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 24 Apr 84 p 14

[Text] "The Office of Secretary of Agriculture and Livestock Raising is working on the formulas to be used for successive adjustments in the price of wheat and the results will be announced as soon as possible so that producers may plan for the future. As we have said on other occasions, we want production to be a safe activity and not a risk," Dr Bernardo Grinspun said at the press conference he held at noon at the Buenos Aires Grain Exchange.

The head of the Ministry of Economy dealt with various aspects of agriculture and visited the headquarters of the Exchange to "hear concerns, engage in a dialogue and try to find the best solutions for the sector." In answer to one question, he discussed matters relating to the budget and assured his listeners that despite instructions to reduce spending and investments insofar as possible and to do what was strictly necessary, large allocations will be earmarked for the National Highway System and the Argentine Railroad "in order to guarantee transportation for expanding farm production."

He added that measures have been taken with respect to the Mitre Canal and the construction of floating silos in the outer port, which have demonstrated their effectiveness in the movement of freight. "We are not only seeking greater speed, but also lower costs so as to help producers."

Meat

Turning to the subject of meat, the minister of economy said that the Office of Agriculture and Livestock Raising is drafting a meat and livestock policy that will soon be revealed. He emphasized the gap between the supply and demand for meat and the effect it has on prices.

Concerning this matter, the minister said that as one way of increasing the supply, consideration is being given to the formation of "intervention stock" through which the government would try to attenuate sudden variations in the domestic price of the product. However, he declined to say exactly how the mechanism would work.

The minister of economy also referred to the "excess production capacity" of our cold storage industry and said that the matter requires an in-depth study already being completed "with great care."

Improved Grain Hauling

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 19 Apr 84 p 12

[Text] Salta--The National Grain Board and the Argentine Railway Enterprise Are now examining the mobilization of the grain harvest of the NOA [expansion unknown] and the NEA [expansion unknown] to coastal ports in order to avoid the recurrence of problems arising out of the lack of silos and requiring the speedy shipment of grain so as to prevent deterioration from being stored in the open.

Arriving in this city yesterday were the vice president of the National Grain Board, Dr Carlos Maria Pinasco, and officials from the Office of Secretary of Transportation, who are analyzing the problem with officials and representatives of the Salta and Santiago del Estero farm organizations. It was initially decided to provide ten trains a day with a capacity of 700 tons each for the NOA and the NEA, the maximum figure allowed per day by unloading facilities at the Santa Fe and Rosario ports.

Two trains will go to the Barranqueras port and four to Santa Fe, with the same number assigned to Rosario. The provinces are to complete the loading operations in 12 hours in order to avoid the traditional bottlenecks at both ports.

With respect to transport to Chile and Bolivia, it was decided to postpone the solution because at the present time, there is insufficient freight car capacity on the Transandean railroad going to Socompa in this province and to Antofagasta in Chile.

However, officials believe that it is important to use the Pacific maritime route, as a result of which it is thought that within no more than 30 days, it will be possible to transport grain over that route in order to meet commitments made to Mexico.

Despite the fact that the solution of the ten cars a day "is the maximum possible at the present time," railroad officials said that the agreement will be flexible enough to allow alternatives.

It is estimated that the current grain harvest in the provinces will exceed 400,000 tons.

INTA's Plans for Wheat Season

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 19 Apr 84 p 9

[Text] The National Institute of Agricultural-Livestock Technology (INTA) has announced the program of activities it has began in order to support producers during this wheat season.

The organization has mobilized 11 experimental stations and 98 extension departments, meaning the mobilization of 210 technicians who will have recourse to 1,179 and 566 tests and experimental plots to carry out their mission to producers, who numbered 60,000 last season and an area of 7 million hectares under cultivation.

The meetings that have been organized and that are aimed at achieving the broadest possible participation of all sectors involved in production will include farm organizations so that they may be informed about the technology and program of action of INTA. Other meetings will update the knowledge of experts from official and private organizations who, through their efforts, expand upon the INTA's task of information. Finally, there will also be meetings in which producers themselves will participate directly.

According to INTA, the agricultural agents in charge of extension services will be available to producers for consultations in their offices. The agents will also visit fields and organize producer groups in order to take them to observe official and private tests, as well as demonstration plots.

In announcing its activities connected with the wheat season, INTA said that "it thus invests the resources assigned to it by the law recently passed by the National Congress, which also grants it power. This law does not mean that the institution will have unlimited funds," the organization notes, "but money will be supplied at the proper time. As a result of this, INTA will be able to intensify its traditional action and obtain a better wheat harvest."

Increase in Production Costs

Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 13 Apr 84 p 18

[Text] Wheat growers have had to face an increase of some 7 percent in production costs in the past 12 months, according to information on the prices of agricultural input provided by offices of the secretary of agriculture and livestock raising.

In March 1983, one had to obtain 881 tons of wheat to pay the cost of a hypothetical "basket" made up of one harvester, a five-furrow plow, a 75-hp tractor, 1,000 liters of Parathion (insecticide), 1,000 kilograms of urea (fertilizer), 1,000 liters of fuel, 25 working days of a hired hand, 1,000 meters of wire, a 28 disk planter, a pickup, 1,000 [kilograms] of diamonic phosphate (fertilizer) and rail transport of 100 tons of grain over 200 kilometers, in March 1984, one would have to produce 943 tons to meet those same costs.

Analyzing each of the items making up the "basket" individually, one observes different trends.

While the producer's purchasing power has diminished with respect to the cost of the harvester, the plow, fuel, labor, wire, the planter, pickup and transport, the cost of the tractor, insecticides and fertilizers has gone down.

Breakdown

However, even between the different items, the trends are substantially different during the period analyzed (March 1983-March 1984).

One can note that the greatest increase is for rail transport, whose cost doubled. What 12 months ago resulted in an outlay equivalent to 3.75 tons of wheat now requires 7.5 tons of the same grain.

It is followed by: wages of farm workers, with an increase of 67.6 percent; the planter, 47.1 percent; fuel, 29.7 percent; the plow, 11 percent; the pickup, 10.3 percent; wire, 8.3 percent; and the harvester, with an increase in cost of 6.1 percent.

Among the items whose cost variation has been favorable to the producer, the percentages are much more similar. The greatest increase in purchasing power is for urea, where one needs 14.2 percent less wheat to buy the same amount of fertilizer. Next comes diamonic phosphate, which has gone down 3.8 percent, and parathion, down 1.1 percent.

Effects of Technological Factor

Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 14 Apr 84 Agric. Supp. p 6

[Text] Various innovations have come out of the new fertilizer program proposed by the Office of Secretary of Agriculture and Livestock.

Among them are the powers given to the National Grain Board to participate in the importing and domestic marketing of fertilizer, the barter system through which producers will receive the fertilizer in exchange for the product obtained from its use, and one element rarely taken into account and that will provide a glimpse of how the national farm policy will shape up: the decisive weight given to a technological factor.

Acceptance of the proposal by farmers may be taken for granted, given the possibility of gaining access to an element making it possible to increase yield, paying in kind and following the harvest. This implies no financial cost and in addition, the added spending resulting from the adoption of the technology appears to be very low when one realizes that the application of urea comes to about 100 to 130 Argentine pesos per hectare. However, these figures will depend upon clarifications gradually obtained with respect to profitability for the crop.

The positive response obtained in wheat crops throughout the country has been widely demonstrated, which would indicate that the fertilizer program, at least in the early stages, will try to play upon the proven aspect in being oriented directly toward that crop. However, this is one of the objections made: that it is aimed only at wheat. Another objection to the fertilizer program refers to the fact that to date, the type of fertilizer most widely used in Argentina to date has been diamonic phosphate and not urea.

It might therefore be thought that the broad dissemination achieved by diamonic phosphate in those areas of the wheat zone lacking phosphate in the soil has been made possible by the lack of obstacles to obtaining the product.

Following the same line of reasoning, if in those regions of the wheat-growing area whose soil conditions advise the use of urea the application of the fertilizer has not been as great, it would thus be justified for the fertilizer program to be oriented toward them, at least in the early stages.

Increased Soy Production

Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 17 Apr 84 p 14

[Text] Estimated soybean production for the 1983-1984 season is 1.5 million tons greater than that of the previous season, totaling some 5.5 million tons.

Based on information from the Office of Secretary of Agriculture and Livestock Raising, this record production would mean an increase of 37.5 percent over the 4 million tons produced during the 1982-1983 season.

This volume is 43.8 percent higher than the 3,824,000 tons average of the last 5-year period and 122.7 percent greater than the 2,469,000 tons of the past decade.

The area planted totals some 2.6 million hectares, with an approximate yield of 21.3 quintals per hectare harvested.

Provinces

The most significant increase in production is reportedly in Salta Province, with 83,400 tons for this season, 154 percent more than the 32,800 tons for the 1982-1983 season.

There are also significant increases in the provinces of Santa Fe, with 2.32 million tons, compared with 1.42 million for the previous season, an increase of 63.4 percent, and Buenos Aires, with a production of 1.27 million tons, 33.7 percent greater than the 950,000 tons the previous season.

With respect to yield, it is estimated that the total will be 2,126 kilograms per hectare, a figure that is 8.2 percent under the yield attained in 1978-1979, when the figure was 2,313 kilograms per hectare.

Estimated Grain Production

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 18 Apr 84 Sec 2 p 4

[Text] The president of the National Grain Board, Alberto Ferrari Etcheverry, has predicted that grain production for the 1983-1984 period could be around 39.5 million tons, under the volume of the 1982-1983 season, when the total was 40.5 million tons.

The official added that wheat production was estimated at 11.7 million tons, substantially under the level of last year.

He said that linseed production would be an estimated 680,000 tons, also under the 795,000 tons produced last year.

"It is hoped that corn and sorghum production will be greater than last year because this year, the area planted in sorghum is an estimated 4.6 percent greater than that cultivated last year and the area planted in corn is only .9 percent under the 1982-1983 level," he added.

The official said that with respect to soybeans and sunflowers, good production is expected. The significant increases in the area planted in both crops: 9 percent in the case of soybeans and 8.8 percent in sunflowers, provide grounds for the estimates.

In statements to AQUI FACA, he said that foreign marketing of the exportable wheat surplus, an estimated 7.6 million tons, is practically a foregone conclusion.

Asked about possibilities of increasing the storage capacity, he announced that beginning in 1987, the northeastern and northwestern regions of Argentina would have 168,000 tons of government storage space, plus private storage.

Concerning repair work on the warehouse burned at the metropolitan port, he said that Pier No 4 would be ready at the end of May, with four conveyer belts with a freight capacity of 800 tons an hour each.

Mitre Canal

Concerning the rehabilitation of the Mitre Canal, he said that it is planned for December and that as the operation moves along, steps will be taken to gradually increase the depth of the channel.

Asked about bilateral contracts with Iran and India, he answered that the contract with India provides for a total of 650,000 tons of wheat for bread, of which 75,000 were shipped in October 1983, 75,000 in November, 100,000 in December and 200,000 in January.

The remaining 200,000 tons are now being shipped and a total of 130,000 tons have been transferred to the cooperatives. The contract with Iran establishes monthly shipments of 90,000 tons of wheat for bread.

Ferrari added that the process will continue until March 1985, involving an additional 600,000 tons. The total wheat shipments to Iran this season are an estimated 1.5 million tons.

Another contract has been signed with Iran for the shipment of 870,000 tons of corn. To date, the cooperative sector has shipped 60,000 tons.

Imported Fertilizers

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 24 Apr 84 p 14

[Text] The Office of Secretary of Agriculture and Livestock Raising will be the organization in charge of formulating annual plans for the importation, distribution and sale of fertilizer in the country, as stipulated in an order implementing Law 20,496 declaring promotion of the use of fertilizer to increase farm production in the national interest. The law was not applied previously, despite the amount of time that has passed since it was passed, because of the lack of implementation. The order in question now states that the economic situation in which the country finds itself requires an immediate and significant increase in farm production and exportable surpluses and that the massive use of fertilizer will make it possible to achieve the goal in the near future.

11,464

CSO: 3348/403

TERRITORY OFFERED ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP IN OECS

Road Town THE ISLAND SUN in English 7 Apr 84 pp 1, 2

[Text]

The British Virgin Islands has been offered Associate Member status in the regional body, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), according to a recent letter from the Organization's Director General, Vaughn Lewis. This decision was taken at the Fourth Meeting held on 29th February, 1984.

An outgrowth of the West Indies Associated States (WI-AS) and the Eastern Caribbean Common Market (ECCM), the underlying principle for the establishment of the OECS by its member states is that of uniting resources and efforts, and strengthening common institutions which could serve to increase their collective bargaining power with regard to third world countries or groupings.

The BVI as a member state will derive particular

benefit from the statistical training and development provided at the ECCM Secretariat in Antigua. Additionally, the Economic Affairs Committee (EAC) and the Economic Affairs Secretariat (EAS) are engaged in economic policy-making activities which co-ordinate with the economic development policies of such countries as the BVI.

Broadly, these activities relate to the harmonious and co-ordinated development of selected economic functions; co-operation in initiatives toward certain international agencies and with regard to particular aspects of external economic relations; and co-operation in specific policy areas and co-ordinated economic planning.

The OECS offer is presently under consideration by the Government pending final negotiations.

INFLATION RATE QUESTIONED; GOVERNMENT STUDY URGED

Road Town THE ISLAND SUN in English 14 Apr 84 p 13

[Editorial]

[Text] For the past two years it has been good to know that inflation in the United States has gone from about 15% to a low of 5%, which means that the cost of day to day necessities of life, such as food, clothing and housing was substantially reduced on the market.

While the statistical report on inflation in the U.S. is gratifying, it does not appear to make any difference in the inflation rate in these and other islands in the Caribbean. Prices on commodities instead of decreasing are steadily on the rise. This is somewhat surprising since a lot of our food stuffs and building materials are imported from the U.S., via Puerto Rico or St. Thomas, if not directly from the main source in the United States.

Although we are not statisticians, it appears to us that the downward trend of inflation, which has been substantial in the U.S., should have some bearing on the inflation rate that affects these islands, since about 90% of all imports originate from the United States where inflation has been drastically reduced, but prices on such goods, sold locally, have shown no decline while inflation continues to climb. It would be interesting to know the cause of this unfavourable trend.

There may be factors, such as the high cost of transportation for the lack of any decline in the inflation rate which is continuing to get higher in this Territory. There is room for a thorough study of this matter, and we trust that the Statistical Department of the Government will undertake that study and come up with a report.

CSO: 3298/794

SCANT U.S. AID, ELECTION DELAY CITED IN GRENADA

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish No 14, 6 Apr 84 pp 61-63

[Article by Earl Bousquet, on special assignment with PRENSA LATINA: "Effects of the Invasion"]

[Text] There was great rejoicing all over Grenada when the New Gem Movement (NGM) announced that 1984 would be designated "International Airport Year."

Hopes rose when it was announced that the Cuban internationalists were farther advanced in their work than planned. There was no doubt that they would complete the biggest economic project in the history of the island by 15 March of this year, the fifth anniversary of the revolution.

The dream of all Grenadans would have been realized with the opening of the international airport at Port Salines. And they would have called a conference to find a name for it.

No one imagined that on that historic date Grenada would be occupied by American troops; nor would anyone have believed that U.S. military aircraft and helicopters would be the first to land on the 9,000-foot runway built by Grenadans and Cubans. The bustling activities involved in the cleaning of streets and houses and the renovation that were typical of previous anniversaries were lacking.

Instead, we felt the melancholy and sadness typical of countries occupied by the military.

American soldiers were everywhere, despite Washington's promises that its military forces would be withdrawn by the middle of last December.

The revolutionary programs had been suspended by the occupying forces; unemployment had already nearly doubled; to travel citizens had to show their "passes" to military patrols; prostitution is the only thing that has revived.

No one knows what the future holds in store for him.

Gloomy Prospects for 1984

Insecurity and uncertainty have marked the start of this year for the Grenadans. In December 1983, for the first time in 3 years, farm and state enterprise workers did not receive their annual bonuses, equivalent to a third of their earnings, a sum that used to be distributed equitably.

With the interruption of work on the international airport and the suspension of the revolutionary programs initiated by the NCM, unemployment has rapidly risen from 14 percent before the invasion conducted by the United States to over 28 percent scarcely a month after the attack.

Furthermore, financial aid is difficult to obtain and that problem has become one of the chief headaches of the Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique Advisory Council, the interim government appointed by Paul Scoon, the governor general designated by the British Crown and a faithful ally of the United States.

Up to now only the United States and Great Britain have promised to provide aid, but in quantities hardly sufficient to alleviate the problems the American invasion has incurred.

Washington has distributed scarcely \$3 million and this as "emergency aid" to repair what its bombs destroyed during the attacks of last October.

As for the British, they have limited themselves to a similar figure, but in Eastern Caribbean dollars (equivalent to 37 U.S. cents). Neither of the two has pledged itself to cooperate with the completion of the airport. There is also uncertainty as to the renewal of the loan agreement suspended by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

As far as the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) is concerned, we know that it is preparing a 2-year economic aid plan, but its implementation will be delayed for some time to come.

Health and education services have also been impaired by the departure of the more than 700 Cuban cooperative workers who were working on the island.

The withdrawal of Cuban teachers has led to a reduction in the study curriculum in almost all schools, while the only hospital on the island has been left without the Cuban medical team that constituted up to 25 percent of all the medical personnel the country had.

The People's Education Centers (PEC), the agencies for a national literacy and education campaign for adults begun in May 1980, have been suspended. Thousands of volunteer workers have no chance of going on with their work.

"Wipe Out" the Revolution

In the midst of this confusion and uncertainty, the American occupiers and their local partisans have moved quickly to lead Grenada down a neocolonial path. The state enterprises have been returned to the private sector and the

"Investment Code" pledged by the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) is being reshaped to give the capitalists a major role in national activities.

As the PRG conceived things, Grenada was on the way to developing "a mixed economy headed by the state sector," but this has already been invalidated in accordance with Washington's position, as formulated in the so-called Caribbean Basin Plan launched by Ronald Reagan.

Similarly, trade agreements with the socialist countries are being liquidated, as demonstrated by the cancellation of a trade agreement with the Soviet Union according to which large quantities of Grenadan nutmeg were to be acquired. The shipment has been sold to an American company, the Caribbean Corporate Service, at prices lower than those of the world market.

In an effort to detract from the importance of the NGM and the PRG, Paul Scoon has repeatedly accused the revolutionary forces of alleged crimes for the purpose of justifying the deplorable economic and financial state the island has been in since the American invasion and he has also gone so far as to insinuate that there were no records in the Treasury of the salaries paid the members of the People's Revolutionary Army (PRA).

The fact that Grenada was the only member of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) that recorded constant economic growth between 1979 and 1982 and had the highest rate of economic growth in the western hemisphere in 1983 — 5.5 percent — was never mentioned.

The new rulers are also trying to wipe out the memory of 13 March 1979 when a people's rebellion opened a new path for Grenada.

Plan to Delay Elections

There have been differences between the interim council and Governor General Scoon regarding extension of the occupation of Grenada by foreign troops (particularly the Americans). The former assured us that it would like them to leave "as soon as possible," but the representative of the British Crown has asked them to remain "for as long as possible."

Scoon is winning: Despite the withdrawal of several hundred U.S. soldiers last December, some 2,000 will remain on the island as "noncombatant troops" on the pretext of helping to repair the damage caused during the invasion and "guaranteeing adequate security."

Moreover, the interim government has no executive powers and the country is actually being ruled by the Americans and Scoon.

A European diplomat at Saint George's recently declared: "The fact is that the government here is largely controlled by Charles Gillespie and Maj Gen Jack Farris (the U.S. ambassador and military commander respectively). At the same time we note an obvious effort to delay the elections the interim government has promised would take place "between May and Christmas."

Partisans of Washington on the island have suggested that the elections be postponed for "2 or 3 years," arguing that the Grenadans need "more time to return to law and order" after 4 and a half years of revolution.

There has been a delay in the designation of a supervisor for the elections, while interests that favor the United States have announced the formation of several parties, some of which are demanding that Grenada be subjected to a U.S. neocolonial status similar to the one Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands suffer under.

At the same time strict watch is being maintained over those NGM activists who have not been arrested and "anti-American" activities are banned.

Furthermore, it is felt that the occupiers will ban participation in any possible elections by the NGM or any other anti-imperialist force that may arise on the island.

In Grenada they know that Washington would prefer to postpone the calling of elections. It was precisely this postponement in the return to a "constitutional" government that forced Anthony Rushford, the crown's former attorney general and advisor on British legal matters, to resign his post barely a few weeks after his appointment to the interim council.

Rushford had stated that he was not convinced that Scoon wanted a prompt return to constitutionality and added that it was the first time he had seen a governor general of a Commonwealth nation assume all the executive powers over the government.

All NGM Leaders in Prison

Meanwhile, in their efforts to prevent the revival of the NGM as the country's chief political force, the new rulers are keeping that party's leaders, the remainder of the NGM Central Committee, as well as the members of the Revolutionary Military Council (RMC) and other political figures of the revolution in prison under extreme security measures and in the same prison in which individuals charged with making attacks on the Bishop government were held.

The council and the governor general announced that the future of NGM prisoners would be left to a detention court the composition of which was not announced until last December.

Another subject of dispute between the former advisor to the interim council and Scoon was the decision by members of the former not to investigate the events of 19 October 1983 when Maurice Bishop, several of his ministers, union leaders and civilians were violently killed in the barracks of Fort Rupert.

Rushford argued that such an investigation would be prejudicial to the fair examination of anyone who had been booked subsequently and expressed reservations as to whether a jury could behave fairly in a trial.

Scoon favored the investigation and since then, as the Caribbean News Agency (CANA) informed us: "The council has made no more statements in connection with the affair."

By the end of December, however, it was announced that a local lawyer, Dennis Lambert, who had served as a Supreme Court reporter, was appointed to replace Rushford.

Physical and Psychological Torture

NGM members who were not imprisoned have accused the American military authorities of resorting to various means of physical and psychological torture on the members of the Central Committee being held at Richmond Hill.

One NGM member who succeeded in eluding the intense interrogations of the security services told the press that several prisoners had been subjected to brutal beatings and other forms of physical torture, including electric prods.

What Will the Future Be Like?

What kind of future awaits Grenada? That is a question that no one on the island can answer in a conclusive manner.

The new rulers have announced the suspension of the revolutionary programs that are of direct benefit to the masses, such as free milk and butter for pregnant mothers and those who are nursing infants, uniforms and books for students, the housing repair program and the distribution of annual benefits, among others.

The village, parish, women's, youth and worker councils and other institutions have ceased to exist.

With the absence of tourism, the uncertainty as to the future of the nutmeg, cacao and banana trades (the island's chief farm crops) and the general decline in foreign aid pledges, the future of the economy would appear to be very gloomy.

International condemnation and repudiation of the invasion permit us to assume that there is a high level of isolation and nonrecognition of the present government.

At the present time only those who opposed the revolution enjoy full human rights and civil liberties.

The Americans have stayed on Grenada too long and, as Loren Jenkins, a WASHINGTON POST journalist reports from the island, "people are beginning to ask themselves: Who's going to rescue us from our rescuers?"

11,466

CSO: 3248/591

WESTERN MEDIA ACCUSED OF MISINFORMATION BARRAGE

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish No 14,5 Apr 84 pp 18-19

[Article by Armando Lopez Rivera: "Freedom of the Press or of Domination?"]

[Text] As regards the supposed freedom of the press in the United States, we might well turn to the words of John Swinton, the chief editor of the NEW YORK TIMES, in 1895: "In America (read: the United States) there is no freedom of the press.... None of us dares to write the honest truth and you know that, if we did, it wouldn't be published.... Our much-vaunted freedom of the press means freedom for the wealthy to take possession of and impose on public opinion the world as they see it, through the eyes of big capitalists.... We are weapons and vassals of the wealthy, who operate behind the scenes.... our talents, our potential and our lives, everything is the property of other individuals. We are intellectual prostitutes."

These words, expressed by that disillusioned New York journalist almost 90 years ago, are fully appropriate and valid for the entire bourgeois press.

The gap that exists between the truth and the "information" manipulated by the big transnational news agencies is now more than ever before evident.

The concepts of "liberty," "objectivity" and "impartiality" of the capitalist press constitute its freedom to lie about, distort, manipulate or omit the real facts.

The deception of a free flow of information is obvious in the many campaigns unleashed by the so-called "great press": monopolies of news agencies, dailies and magazines, radio and television, as well as other media specialized in the "art" of misinformation. A whole modern machinery of sophisticated gears placed at the disposal of capitalist interests, designed to sell the image of the bourgeois regime and "Western civilization," to strengthen the dominant ideology, to induce people to consume more and to transplant the values and models of the industrialized countries to the underdeveloped nations, penetrating the latter and distorting their development.

When we analyze the cablegrams of the transnational news agencies and compare them with the topics dealt with by the most influential dailies and magazines, radio or television broadcasts, whether they be in the United States, Latin

America or any part of the capitalist world whatsoever, we can see how the same "news items" are repeated, cleverly and subtly manipulated through the techniques of propaganda. This is neither spontaneous nor accidental. It is the specific reflection of the interrelation that exists within the complex skein of news media whose ends are joined and manipulated by monopolies with the same economic, political and social interests.

As Boris Bessonov has rightly pointed out, the mass news media "are considered to be one of the most important instruments of domestic and foreign policy of the imperialist nations."

There is practically no place on earth that is not reached by some form of radio broadcasting. There are at present in the world about 30,000 radio stations and 1.3 billion receivers, 33,000 television stations and approximately 500 million television sets and about 150 news agencies; 8,240 dailies are published with a general circulation of 450 million copies and tens of thousands of other news publications; almost 700,000 book titles are published annually with a press run of over 8 billion copies. About 3,800 films are produced annually, films that are shown in 250,000 movie houses with a capacity of 72 million spectators.

True transnational monopolies, the four major news agencies: the ASSOCIATED PRESS (AP) and the UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL (UPI), both American, REUTERS, British, and FRANCE-PRESSE (AFP), maintain control over 80 percent of the capitalist world's cable news.

The AP was created in 1848 through a merger of six New York dailies. In 1967 it formed a partnership with the Dow-Jones Company, which publishes the WALL STREET JOURNAL, the biggest private corporation in the news field, a provider of U.S. and world stock exchange and economic analyses. The AP provides services to over 1,300 U.S. dailies, 3,400 radio stations and television channels, over 110 countries and has 560 accredited correspondents abroad. In 1977 it had an output of 12,000 words a minute.

The UPI was founded in 1907 in New York by E.W. Scripps, the owner of several American dailies. This chain is today known as the Scripps-Howard syndicate, which has ties with the Hearst monopoly.

According to figures published in 1978, the UPI has over 7,000 subscribers and provides 1,134 American dailies and 3,699 radio and television stations with news. It has 572 correspondents abroad and subscribers in 92 countries. It has an output capacity of 8,800 words a minute.

REUTERS, founded by Julius Reuter in 1851. Its stockholders are four publisher associations:

The NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION, which combines the members of the national press of Great Britain.

The NEW ZEALAND PRESS ASSOCIATION.

The AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATED PRESS.

The PRESS ASSOCIATION, composed of the provincial press of Great Britain and Ireland.

It has subscribers in 150 countries, 44 of them African and 33 American (including the United States). It maintains 350 correspondents and offices in 110 countries.

It has an extensive network of economic news, especially financial and commercial, that it places not only at the disposal of the news media, but also of banks and economic enterprises. It also functions as the chief stockholder of the VISNEWS agency, which distributes television documentaries to 83 countries.

And lastly, the AFP — the oldest of the news agencies — was created in 1832 by Charles Havas. In 1976 it provided 354 French dailies and 185 radio and television networks with news. It has subscribers in 145 countries.

As we can see, not only concentration and monopolization of the news media are involved, but also the influence these transnational corporations exert over the content of publications and radio and television programming, most especially in the countries of Latin America, Asia and Africa.

In his work, "The Mass News Media and Bourgeois Propaganda," Bessonov explains how the opinions of their owners, who support two principles: to sell merchandise and, secondly, to guide public opinion in accordance with the interests of the consortiums that maintain control over the news media, are expressed in the pages of the press and through radio and television.

On one occasion John Foster Dulles commented: "If I were granted the right to proclaim just one principle of foreign policy, I would choose the free flow of information," in saying which he demonstrated the power of the latter in the neocolonial world of American policy.

In 1946 the United States publicly defined the government's position on information: "The State Department proposes to do everything in its power in the domain of politics or diplomacy to contribute to the tearing down of the artificial barriers that oppose the expansion of private American press agencies, magazines, films and other communications media throughout the world.... Freedom of the press — the freedom to exchange information in general — forms an integral part of our foreign policy." The news media controlled by the Western monopolies were not enough to carry out this proclaimed "cultural colonization" and, as Yuri Kashev stated in "The Imperialism of Information," the biggest government propaganda organization in the world was created: the United States Information Agency (USIA). It has some 200 branch offices in 126 countries, publishes 12 reviews in 22 languages and operates the "Voice of America" station. It has a staff of about 8,000 employees and in fiscal year 1983 its budget amounted to \$640 million. Commissioned by the USIA, every year about 1,700 television programs are prepared, which are repeated in 62 languages and broadcast by 2,000 channels or companies abroad.

The American Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the U.S. Department of Defense are no strangers to the empire's propaganda activities.

According to Kaslev, imperialist propaganda is implemented not only through the news agencies controlled by the Western monopolies, but also in the form of publications and films produced by government agencies: military, intelligence and propaganda agencies. According to reports issued by the review, U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT, Washington's appropriations devoted to propaganda amount to about \$2.5 billion.

To better comprehend how this ideological expansionism is manifested, let us take some data from a study made in 1980: The United States controls 75 percent of the world's torrent of television programs, 50 percent of the projection time of films, 35 percent of the books that are published, 90 percent of the television news reports (along with the British VISNEWS) and 60 percent of the production of records and cassettes for record players and tape recorders.

Some 100 American magazines have special editions destined for distribution abroad. With a circulation of 29 million copies, SELECCIONES (READERS DIGEST) distributes 13 million of them outside the United States. The reviews, TIME and NEWSWEEK, are also published with large circulations in many countries. The American newspaper, the INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, which is distributed in some 100 countries, is published in English in Paris.

The political elite of most capitalist countries are subscribers to the NEW YORK TIMES.

The big-circulation newspapers and magazines of England and France, the TIMES and LE MONDE among others, also exert their influence in many countries, especially in the former colonies.

We may sum up some of the fundamental objectives of this whole barrage of bourgeois propaganda with the following points:

To play up the "American way of life" and create illusions with regard to contemporary capitalism.

To present socialism as an authoritarian society.

To undermine the principal socialist values and propagandize reformist and revisionist ideas about Marxist-Leninist theory.

To foment nationalist tendencies in the underdeveloped countries.

To inculcate in young people selfish, individualist and consumer aspirations.

The whole plot composed of the mass news media brings into play their sophisticated techniques to chorus their deceitful campaigns on the supposed "Soviet military threat," "international terrorism," the Cuban "presence" in Angola or Vietnamese "interference" in Kampuchea.

With monotonous persistence, the organizers of "psychological warfare" tried to inculcate the public with the notion that little Grenada represented a threat to the "national security" of the United States.

NEWSWEEK wrote: "Prime Minister Bishop's revolution introduces a serious note of instability into the politics of the countries located in the eastern part of the Caribbean Basin.... We see ourselves confronted with the obvious danger that Grenada may plan to in the 1980's play the role Cuba played in the 1960's, that is, of an exporter of revolutions."

To cite merely one example, let us also remember how the AP correspondent described the incident involving certain antisocial elements in front of the Office of U.S. Interests in Havana on 2 May 1980:

"Havana, 2 May (AP)--A contingent of Cuban police today with clubs and other contusion-producing weapons attacked a crowd of Cubans assembled in front of the Office of U.S. Interests who wanted to apply for visas to leave Cuba."

This is so crude that there is no need to comment on the AP's virulent dispatch.

In fact, since the first days of the revolutionary victory, the Western press has in the most insidious way distorted the truth about Cuba for the purpose of ideologically discrediting, subverting or penetrating it. They try to minimize its achievements and amplify its problems. This is and has been the role of the transnational news agencies against Cuba.

In defining the bourgeois press and "freedom of the press," Vladimir Ilyich Lenin pointed out: "As long as the best printing shops and the best stocks of paper are monopolized by the capitalists and as long as capital retains its power over the press, power which, the more evolved the democracy and the republican form of government, as is the case, for example, in America, the more obvious, violent and cynical it is, this freedom will be a fraud.... What the capitalists call freedom of the press is the freedom of the wealthy to bribe the press, the freedom to make use of wealth to fabricate and distort so-called public opinion."

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11,466
CSO: 3248/591

CDR DIRECTS NEIGHBORHOOD TRIBUTES FOR OVERSEAS SERVICE

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 20 Apr 84 p 2

[Article by Ruben Placeres: "Like Having an Extended Family"]

[Text] That night the block of Calle 50 between 29th and 31st in the municipality of San Antonio de los Banos was beautifully decorated and lit up. The CDR [Committees for the Defense of the Revolution] and zone leaders finalized organizational details.

The boys on the block showed their happiness by racing from one place to another and making noise. The musical group from a nearby military unit set up its instruments to enhance the celebration. That night there would be a reception "at the block level" for reservists Manuel Llama Alayon and Eudelio Suarez Perera. They had returned after successfully fulfilling their sacred internationalist duty in the People's Republic of Angola.

On the day they arrived, their family and friends naturally celebrated at the homes of these comrades. However, the celebration this night had another meaning. It involved public recognition by all their neighbors for those who had worthily represented their country, their province, their municipality and-- why not?--their block in that distant African country.

That was precisely what the neighbors on the block wanted to say to them with this celebration: they were happy about their return, they missed them and they were proud because two more comrades from the block had fulfilled an internationalist mission well.

Olimpio Izquierdo, secretary of the CDR-FAR front of San Antonio de los Banos, explained that the CDR National Directorate has directed that receptions as well as farewells be held for the internationalists. Also there should be regular correspondence with them while they are fulfilling their missions.

How are these celebrations organized? Where do the resources come from?

The CDR leader stated: "The masses mobilize and take care of everything." That was true. The truck from the military unit that brought the musicians was at one end of the block and a resident's vehicle at the other end to close off the block. There were amplifiers, lights, decorations and enthusiasm. A few

ingredients were turned into cold salads, homemade desserts and drinks. When the masses mobilize....

It was a lovely night, filled with a profound revolutionary context, a sign of the new traditions that appear and develop under socialism.

On the night of the reception for the two internationalists, three newborns were inscribed in the Residents Register and two youths who had recently turned 14 were officially admitted to the ranks of the CDR.

The message could not be clearer. Under socialism, all the actions of the citizen from his first months of birth are tied to society which stimulates him and exhorts him to fulfill his civic duties.

It will always be like that. Our society will continue to show more solidarity and be more revolutionary and more internationalist. If the newborns who were inscribed in the Residents Register that night are someday asked to be internationalists, they will surely respond and will return as successful fulfillers like Manuel and Eudelio. They also will receive the recognition of their neighbors.

Reservists Speak

Manuel Llama Alayon is a reserve officer who fulfilled an internationalist mission in Angola. At the beginning of the 1970's, he went through Active Military Service where he learned to be a driver.

He works at the Lazaro Pena Tobacco Enterprise. The Union of Communist Youth and the Municipal Military Directorate presented the mission to him and he went to Angola for 2 years.

Manuel is married and has a 6-year-old son. He stated: "This reception seems like a good idea to me, not only for us but for everyone on the block, especially the youths. They could learn something from our speeches about what internationalism means. The celebration itself has a profound educational meaning."

During the mission, the CDR always maintained contact with me through letters. That was a great moral stimulus that forced one to continue working to make a good impression. When one is far away, letters have tremendous value!

Eudelio Suarez Perera is a noncommissioned officer in the reserve. He acquired his present specialty in the FAR when he went through Active Military Service. He also became a mechanic there. According to him, he learned many things that have helped him not only now in fulfilling the assigned internationalist mission but have helped him get along in life.

After fulfilling his military service, Eudelio remained closely tied to the reserves. He took different courses in his specialty and participated in study meetings and other training with his unit.

"I am very grateful for this reception. When I came home, there was celebration and joy. This today is different. It really makes one feel good to know that everyone on the block was waiting and that they are happy because we fulfilled. It is like having an extended family."

7717

CSO: 3248/627

INDEPENDENT VENDORS, WORKERS SAID TO VIOLATE LAW

Havana JUVENTUD REBELDE in Spanish 16 Apr 84 p 2

[Article by Diana Martinez: "Street Vendors Violate Law"]

[Text] We frequently find street vendors in our cities, especially in the capital. They offer various trinkets: utensils for the home or personal care and many other articles.

We would say that these small businessmen who are not authorized to make such sales thrive.

It is true that many people use their talent, creativity and common sense to make different objects from raw materials they obtain legally. They do not exploit someone else's work and meet certain needs of the people since the local industries of the people's government and the appropriate state organisms are still not in the position to produce enough to take care of the total demand.

However, it is up to the State Committee for Finance, the State Committee for Labor and Social Security and the Ministry of Domestic Trade, respecting the criteria of the local people's government organs, to determine the annual production and services that can be offered, both in form and quantity.

Vendors and customers must know what has been set because what seems to solve a temporary situation for us can mean trouble for the industry and help violators profit from illegal activities.

Decree-Law No. 14

This decree-law went into effect 6 years ago on 3 July 1978. Article 2 states that people who are not tied to a work center for reasons beyond their control can carry out labor activities on their own. They will lose that right if they do not accept job offers in state organisms, enterprises or budgeted units suited to their qualifications or if they refuse to try to get a job.

The authorized workers must be registered first in the Taxpayers Register and pay the corresponding tax. If the activity involved requires a permit, license or special authorization from a central state organism, branch or a local people's government organ, this permit must be presented at the time of registration.

Workers with retirement pensions, those who have disabilities and those not tied to a labor center as well as housewives who meet these requirements can offer services and make products on their own.

A joint resolution of the State Committee for Finance and the State Committee for Labor and Social Security prohibits any individual activity by unauthorized persons, university graduates or intermediate-level technicians or the leaders of state enterprises and entities.

Cannot Sell to the People

These products cannot be legally sold to intermediaries or the people. When they violate the obligations imposed on them by that decree-law, they will be removed from the Taxpayers Register and can be denied these activities throughout the country in the future without effect on any penal charges they might incur.

These products will only be sold to state entities and social and political organizations based on the modalities, terms and other conditions that both parties agree on.

Direct sales to the people come under the jurisdiction of the retail trade enterprises of the people's government. The state entities and social and political organizations that buy objects made by individuals will only do so for their own use and consumption. They cannot resell them or collect for them and there can never be intermediaries.

It is beneficial to repeat that those who make products on their own cannot have establishments open to the public, fixed or mobile public installations or act as street vendors because, in fact, they would be acting illegally.

In a country where the first law guarantees that any man or woman in the position to work has the opportunity to obtain employment in order to contribute to the development of society and satisfy his needs and those of his family, attitudes like these hurt the collective and try to deny the essence of socialism.

Our constitution also guarantees that any disabled person will have decent means of subsistence and that every youth can study.

Through the Social Security system, the state provides adequate protection for any worker limited by his age, disability or sickness. In case of death, it gives similar care to his family. There is social welfare for old people without resources and any disabled person who does not have relatives to help him.

The only appropriate expression for the society we are constructing is to preserve social property, respect work discipline as a way to develop the country and observe the standards of coexistence that govern in the socialist fatherland.

7717

CSO: 3248/627

JOURNALISTS INVESTIGATE NEGLIGENCE, HAZARDS IN WORKPLACE

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish No 14, 6 Apr 84 pp 28-34

[Article by Enrique Valdes Perez: "Back at 'Socialist Vanguard,' the Investigation Continues, and Other Principals Appear"; photos by Carlos Pildain, Orlando Maqueira, Raul Castillo and Gaspar Sardinas]

[Text] On 28 May 1982 BOHEMIA did a feature article on the factory "Socialist Vanguard" on Via Blanca, which produces parts and components for heavy construction equipment and railway equipment used in the sugar industry, as well as parts for export.

The focus of the article was job safety, and the plant came out looking quite bad. There were 65 on-the-job accidents in 1981, with a 7.1 index of seriousness.

But that was not all. For the most part, the workers lacked safety equipment, and what they did have they were not using, arguing that it was bothersome, unnecessary, etc.

Many other problems were detected. Now that 2 years have passed, we thought that it would be a good idea to revisit "Socialist Vanguard" to see how things were going.

Alberton Marin is the new chief of industrial safety at "Socialist Vanguard," which is a full-fledged enterprise today. Our first question dealt with how many industrial accidents there had been in 1982, for purposes of comparison with the 65 in 1981. To our astonishment the reply was as follows:

"We don't have that information, because the enterprise was without an industrial safety chief in 1982 and for much of 1983. There was just an assistant, and he couldn't be up on everything."

Alberto joined the enterprise in June 1983. Disorganization was widespread, and accidents were not being reported. There were 66 accidents from June to December of last year and 12 this past January.

"One of the things that we did to control the data on accidents was to issue a circular telling the assistant directors, department heads, section heads and heads of shops and establishments that all accidents must be reported to the Industrial Safety Department within 24 hours of their occurrence, along with the 'accident notification' form for further investigation.

"In the event of serious or fatal accidents, the chiefs of the areas in which they occurred will be responsible for preserving the scene of the incident to facilitate subsequent investigation.

"In addition, the Enterprise Personnel Section will not authorize occupational accidents payments unless the certificate issued by the hospital is signed by the head of the Industrial Safety Department.

"Infirmary personnel will administer first aid to the accident victim with the utmost urgency, will prepare him for transfer to a hospital and will demand the notification form from the appropriate area."

"What factors are involved in these accidents?"

"Mainly the lack of adequate safety equipment. In 1983 we asked for 50,000 pesos to procure such equipment, and we were given only 18,000 pesos for safety helmets, boots, gloves and welders aprons."

A great many young people join the enterprise every year, thus increasing the need for safety equipment. Upon arriving, workers are told that they are obliged to use all necessary equipment to protect themselves on the job. This is just the theory, however, because when they start working, the safety equipment is not always there.

The lack of equipment is not the only factor, however; insufficient conscientiousness is also involved. The first thing that we noticed in a tour of some shops is that some workers were using no safety equipment at all, even though it was available. What are the brigade chiefs there for? They have their standards and are concerned about output and quality but not as much as they ought to be about worker safety.

This is intolerable because the three factors, output, quality and safety, must go together. Safety must be taken into account even when profitability is the issue. In the second half of 1983 16,000 pesos were lost because of work accidents.

"What's your name?"

"Gregorio Rojas."

"What do you do?"

"I'm a planer (?) [rebiavador]."

"Why aren't you using the mask?"

"Because it's scratched."

No further comments.

"Your name, please."

"David Rojas."

"And what do you do?"

"I'm a planer."

"Why aren't you using the protective mask?"

"As a matter of fact, I just took it off a second ago because we're finishing up."

"How much longer are you going to be here?"

"A little more than a half-hour."

"Didn't you ever stop and think that in a half-hour, in a split second, a foreign particle or a spark could seriously damage your eyes?"

Someone mentions to me that this has already happened to David. He has not learned his lesson.

"Your name, please."

"Urbano Ramos."

"What is your responsibility here?"

"I'm the area brigade chief?"

"Haven't you taken steps to get your workers to observe the safety standards?"

"Yes, of course."

"But we've seen workers who have the equipment available but don't use it."

"That's when I'm not watching them. I can't be everywhere at once."

He reflects for a moment and then starts listing the shortcomings that hamper his work.

"We have no spare masks, no reinforced boots either. The gloves they send us are made of cloth, which are no good."

"Have you told your superiors about this?"

"At every level, but nothing gets done."

A worker approaches us.

"My name is Roberto Garcia and I'm a craneman. Look at these boots. You see what kind of shape they're in? I bought them just 2 months ago. I'm walking all the time between scraps of iron and sparks, and the people in charge of the safety equipment say that we cranemen don't need reinforced boots."

"What department is this?"

"The Finishing Department."

Surprise! In shop 03 we came across a fellow hard at work wearing all his safety equipment. We asked him to take a break. He obliged.

"What's your name, comrade?"

"Rufino Escobar."

"How old are you?"

"Fifty-one."

"Do you always use the safety equipment?"

"Of course."

"Why of course?"

"Because I haven't gone crazy yet."

"Almost no one here uses the equipment, though."

"Because they don't realize the risk they're taking. There's a very young boy working near me who's going to go blind. I nag him about it every day, but he doesn't listen. I'll convince him, though. You'll see."

Yolanda Blanco, the safety assistant who has been kind enough to accompany us, Marin and technician Rafael Cardoso on the tour, suggests that we visit the infirmary. Let's go then.

We meet Dr Juan Manuel Gonzalez and infirmary assistant Gladys Molina.

The doctor has been at the center just a short while, having just returned from an internationalist mission. Gladys has been here for 5 years.

"How are things at the infirmary?"

"In what sense?"

"Do you have too much or too little of something?"

"Too much? We don't have anything."

"What are the most common injuries that you treat?"

"Bruises and burns. Ninety percent of the accidents are due to the lack of safety equipment."

"What supplies are you lacking?"

"Almost everything. We haven't had any cotton for the last year and a half. We have no gauze, no mercurochrome, no analgesics. The only thing that we have is an antidiarrhetic and, in cases of severe pain, Abafortan."

"Who supplies you?"

"The Medical Supplies Enterprise."

"And how long has it been?"

"Nothing has come in since November. We put in the requests, and nothing comes of them. When the supplies have been there, we've picked them up with our own equipment."

The industrial security chief interrupts:

"I called the Medical Supplies Enterprise on Friday, 3 February, and they told me that there was nothing for the factories because they had just gotten back from vacation."

"Everybody was on vacation?"

"That's what they said."

"With whom did you speak?"

"With the person who answered the phone. I don't know who he was."

"What was the telephone number?"

"90-6560."

Nelson Arteche has been the enterprise's assistant director for almost a year now. He received us newsmen somewhat mistrustfully, like someone going on the defensive. He must be made to understand the role that the press plays in the construction of the new society. A climate conducive to conversation is finally created.

"We've been systematically trying to do business with Medical Supplies, but they don't deliver anything. They say that they don't have the items. We need medication for burns especially. We've already taken the matter to higher bodies, but we're always told that the enterprise itself has to resolve the problem."

Arteche tells us that Medical Supplies gives priority to hospitals and polyclinics, pharmacies and schools, with factories bringing up the rear. We asked whether some flexibility was not possible.

"And what about safety equipment?"

"Funny you should ask. A month ago we had a visit from a CEATM [State Committee for Technical and Material Supply] and a Regional State Committee for Labor inspection team, and its finding was that in general we receive more equipment than the regulations provide for.

"According to Arteche, this is hard to believe. Although they sometimes find gloves here and there that do the job, this is not the rule. The fact is that the manufacturer of the gloves says that they last 3 months, but they actually last only 15 days because they are not top quality.

"As a control procedure we have stipulated that to get a new piece of equipment you have to turn in the old one."

"What is the reason for the increase in accidents at the center?"

"There might have been more than 65 accidents in 1981, because back then the infirmary didn't report most of them. In 1982 there was no industrial safety chief and, therefore, no security standards. Now they exist, and every worker had to be familiar with them, which is reflected in their files.

"Everyone, both the people already working here and new arrivals, gets instructions on how to use the equipment. We are in the process of taking disciplinary measures when these rules are violated. The sanctions will be applied not only against accident victims but also against people who don't follow the rules even if they don't have an accident. The man in charge of them will also be held responsible if he has something to do with the infraction."

We bring up the 12 accidents in January again.

"They happened early in the month, and we haven't had any since then. That doesn't mean that we have no problems. We get a lot of new personnel here every year, and even though they learn the safety procedures by heart, they receive no equipment. We need boots for 912 workers and last year we got only 252 pairs. We've gotten together with the Union Bureau on this to decide who we give them to."

"What can be done to minimize occupational accidents?"

"We ourselves are making control and assistance visits to the various departments and every month we meet with the shop heads and officials to hear what they have to say about what, in their experience, can be done."

"We also have serious problems with inadequate lighting. We're knocking ourselves out working three shifts, and this is why we have all these problems. We've already discussed the lighting business with CEATM."

"We are in a position, I can assure you, to gradually eliminate accidents. First of all, because we now have reliable data to go by and because prevention measures are being tightened. The director himself summons us every 15 days to analyze the performance in health and safety. This is also taken up at the daily production meetings. There has been a lack of conscientiousness in monitoring safety."

One of the worker's main enemies is the bad habit of not using the safety equipment because of the overconfidence that experience brings. Rules and regulations are of no use unless habits are instilled in the workers. That is the view of Comrade Arteche.

"I am convinced that we are going to make a complete turnaround in this. We have to keep plugging away at teaching good habits and getting medicine for the infirmary and create the conditions that will enable us to eradicate accidents. It won't happen overnight."

The enterprise has an ambulance, but it has not been made clear when it ought to be used. Should it be used in the case of a worker who develops an ailment that could perhaps be alleviated with the proper medication at the factory, or should it be used only for accident victims?

"I think that this will soon be resolved. We have a regulation, and from now on the male nurse will decide. And speaking of the male nurse, this is another problem. We have just one in the morning, and we work here on the four by three system, which means that even Sunday is a workday. The same goes for the women nurses. We need four and we haven't been able to get them."

Juan Carlos Limonta, a blue-collar worker, is the secretary general of the Union Bureau.

"Did you fulfill the commitment you made to the 15th Congress of the CTC [Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions]?"

"We exceeded our goal as far as output and savings were concerned. But we're having problems getting workers up to ninth grade schooling. We're not going to be able to make it. No matter how much you harp on it, if they don't want to, you can't tie them up and haul them off to the classrooms."

"What is the union doing to eliminate occupational accidents?"

"Everything that it can, and we are now intensifying our offensive. But we need an understanding of the problem. The cloth gloves that they send us are of no use in casting steel, for example. And sometimes they don't even send them. Reinforced boots [botas de casquillo] are indispensable at the center, and we get very few. We are aware of the country's limitations, but maybe a bit more attention could be paid to this. The comrades at CEATM also have to change their view that some of our workers don't need these boots, because they do, like the cranemen who walk around between pieces of iron."

We were concerned as we left the enterprise. From what we heard, the people there are eager to fight for worker safety. But is that enough?

As we have seen, a number of organizations have been mentioned in this article, and it would be incomplete if we did not hear their views too. We thus got in touch with the City of Havana Provincial Enterprise of Medical Supplies, located in Guanabacoa.

We were attended to by comrades Angel Castro Leyva, the manager, Bertha Hecheverria, the head of accounting, and Guillermo Cardenas, the head of distribution.

We are going to summarize what they told us:

"We have never left for vacation en masse. We don't know where 'Socialist Vanguard' got that from. This is a center that cannot close its doors because many municipalities depend on it for their medical supplies.

"If they're really having the difficulties they say they are at the infirmary, it's due basically to their lack of interest, because the least they could do is come and tell us about the emergency, and we would take care of it, as we do with all of the centers in that situation.

"The shortage of aspirin is inadmissible. We ran into a difficult situation because of the lack of containers and we took care of it by making use of tin cans that can hold 4,500 tablets.

"The centers are supplied every 15 days, that is to say, the so-called long Saturdays. There are more of these centers now, and Medical Supplies has the same transportation. This is on the way to being solved, though, because the ministry has promised to send us two trucks, a panel truck and a motorcycle.

"It's true that we haven't sent them any medicine since November, but it's because they haven't ordered any. They say that they sent in an order in December, but it wasn't entered, and they haven't shown us a copy. They submitted an order in October; that was the one we filled in November."

We took note of the medicine delivered to "Socialist Vanguard" that month, and of the 19 items requested, only 3 were not sent. Two of them, the anesthetic and Ozogenon, were not in stock at the time, and the other, Oleogadus A, which is for burns, had been discontinued, with Nitrofurazona being produced in its place. As we said, the order was placed in October and filled in November. Our visit to "Socialist Vanguard" took place on Thursday 9 February.

Our comrades at Medical Supplies continued explaining:

"We have had and still have problems with cotton. But when we don't have the ideal type, we offer it in large bales, which we also send to hospitals and polyclinics and the large centers that have sterilizers.

"They don't show up. I know all of the heads of health and safety except the ones at 'Socialist Vanguard' (Angel Castro Leyva, manager)."

"Hasn't anyone taken personal charge of this matter?"

"No one, neither the union nor management. And that is not good. Relations between the unit and the work center must be close.

"But look, they said in the article that they are having problems with medications. Yet they placed an order on 20 February, and we filled it on the 25th, and they still haven't come to pick it up."
(We visited Medical Supplies on 6 March)

These are the items that they were holding for the comrades at "Socialist Vanguard" 10 days after they were ready for pickup: Alusil in suspension, aspirin, Benedrilina syrup, Bellerhofen, Benedrilina in tablets, Broncosedin syrup, Butacifona, Citrogal, Cloranfenicol, simple and compound Duralgina, Yacout potion, Kaobiespasmol, Lidocaina Spray, Mercurochrome, Meprobamato, Neobatin, Novatropin, Neo Surparil, Nistatin cream, Nitrofurazona, Otocaina, Ozogenon, Reserpina, Sulfatiazol and Timerosal.

This is what Medical Supplies contends, which is in direct contradiction with the comments we heard in the infirmary at "Socialist Vanguard."

Another organization involved in the matter is CEATM. We headed off to the store that specializes in safety and firefighting equipment for the City of Havana Province.

We were politely attended to by its manager, Miriam Carbo.

"I don't know what they mean about there being no spare masks. From the photograph they look like masks with plastic fronts. We delivered their entire order for last year. Now then, if they ran into something unexpected, they should have contacted us, because if we don't have the spare part, we can offer them an acid-proof mask. It's not the ideal kind, but it'll do."

"Was there any request for spare masks?"

"None."

"What about the reinforced boots?"

"I won't deny that there are problems with the equipment, but in the specific case of 'Socialist Vanguard,' because of its importance to the country's economy and because it is a foundry, we've done as much as we can."

"They also complain about the canvass gloves that you send them, claiming that they're poor quality and not the ones they need for their work."

"But in 1983 we didn't deliver them a single pair of smooth canvass gloves. They must have gotten them from a factory where they are used, because there's no problem with this type of glove; production is high, and a shop can easily get rid of a number of them."

"There's no problem either with the No 2 asbestos glove, but they don't want them because they claim that they're dangerous. What they really need are mixed and superreinforced gloves. Last year they ordered 2,000 of the former, and we sent them 2,300. They ordered 3,000 pairs of superreinforced gloves and they got them all. They're right about the quality, though, because the nylon thread with which they're sewn together comes loose when it comes in contact with heat."

"Are they imported?"

"No, they're made in Cuba."

"Do you know whether the items that we're talking about have any imported parts?"

"I'm just the distributor, so I'm not familiar with this information. I suggest that you go to the CEATM and see Comrade Modesto Montt. He'll be glad to talk to you."

We did not want to end this article before learning the opinion of Comrade Modesto Montt, the head of the CEATM Hardware Department.

"As Comrade Miriam told you, the boots and the other items are made here in Cuba. We have a quite severe shortage of the boots because of our mounting needs and because our resources are inadequate in spite of the investments that are being made. But we do not feel that the situation in 'Socialist Vanguard' is critical in this regard.

"There are a lot of factors involved in taking care of the boot shortage, such as the availability of leather. We can't adversely affect the populace at large because they need footwear too, and furthermore, the price of leather is very high all over the world. Even though we make them here, we have to buy the reinforcements in the dollar zone."

"When do you think production can be increased?"

"This year. For the first time ever we are spending money to buy boots in the capitalist area, because the safety of our workers is at stake. In addition, we're working with the Ministry of Light Industry to see to it that by 1985 all of the boots we need are made in Cuba, though we might continue to buy some materials on the capitalist market.

"Another thing that we have in mind under the 1985 conservation program is to recycle the reinforcements because even though the boots wear out, the reinforcements remain in good shape in, say, up to 80 percent of the boots. We have to begin creating this awareness in our workers and take the necessary steps, because this is the way we will save a lot of foreign exchange for the country."

"Some cranemen at 'Socialist Vanguard' told us that they need reinforced boots too because they have to walk around all the time between pieces of iron and that you don't take them into account in your deliveries."

"Look, each enterprise has its health and safety chief, and he is the one who decides which job requires a certain piece of safety equipment. Now then, you would assume that a craneman works on a crane and that he therefore needs only the equipment involved in that job. If it so happens that because of sloppy work the craneman has to walk in spots where scraps of iron or some other dangerous material are strewn about, then the situation has to be looked into, because the danger is being caused by outside elements, and the thing to do is eliminate those elements, not provide safety equipment when it doesn't have to be. In any event, we'll get in touch with the Occupational Safety Institute and have it pay a visit to 'Socialist Vanguard' to see what's going on there."

Comrade Montt continued his report:

"For some years now there has been a commission made up of the State Committee for Technical-Material Supply, the State Committee for Labor

and Social Security, and the Light Industry and Public Health ministries. The studies that it has conducted have led to the publication of a catalogue that makes a basic element possible: proper work planning. The commission has looked into quality and production problems. In cases of poor quality, efforts have been made and the shortcomings eliminated. And though this would be getting into the area of the Light Industry Ministry, the observations that the workers at 'Socialist Vanguard' have made will without doubt be heeded and taken care of.

PHOTO CAPTIONS [Photos not included]

1. p 28 These men need reinforced boots, but few are delivered.
2. p 29 A typical case: he has a mask but does not use it.
3. p 29 The gloves that they send to the foundry are canvass and are of little use. Look at the shape that one of them is in after a week's use, they say.
4. p 30 These are the floors that the cranemen have to walk over; according to CEATM, they do not need special boots.
5. p 31 Roberto Garcia, a craneman, says that he does not know what he can do anymore to get the footwear that he needs for his valuable job.
6. p 31 Carlos Limonta, secretary general of the Union Bureau.
7. p 31 Urbano Ramos is the brigade chief. We have seen his men working without safety equipment, though he says that he tries hard to get them to use it.
8. p 31 Nelson Arteché asserts that accidents will be eliminated, because there are now statistics that will facilitate supervision. Nevertheless, everyone involved in this will have to do his part.
9. p 31 Modesto Montt speaks on behalf of CEATM.
10. p 32 There are not even any pain-relievers in the infirmary. Medical Supplies has not sent anything in 3 months, they claim.
11. p 32 Miriam Carbo brings up a possible lack of initiative on the part of the enterprise and shows us a mask that could serve as a spare, but no such request has been made.
12. p 33 At the time we were doing the work for this feature article, these medications had been lying around for 10 days for "Socialist Vanguard" to pick them up.

13. p 34 Rufino Escobar has been working for most of his life.
He uses the safety equipment because he says he would be crazy
not to.
14. p 34. Medical Supplies says "no" to "Vanguard's" complaints.

8743

CSO: 3248/625

DLP DEMANDS ON UDLP SAID TO WRECK UNITY OF LABOUR

Roseau THE NEW CHRONICLE in English 20 Apr 84 p 1

[Text] THE Labour unification process now faces a serious setback as a result of growing conflict over the agenda for a ground-breaking meeting requested by the United Dominica Labour Party (UDLP) late last month.

While the UDLP's initial move simply requested "urgent unity talks...aimed at securing broad-based Labour Unity," the Dominica Labour Party of Oliver Seraphine and Patrick John went a step further. They have since been insisting that the terms of reference for preliminary discussions include among other things, the closure of the "leadership question," the "suspension" of the UDLP and the "clarification of all negative statements of the past" by the UDLP leader of the Hon. Michael Douglas.

But that is not all. The DLP also feels that the disputed agenda should allow for an "indication of willingness" from Mr. Douglas that he is ready "to accept membership in the Labour Party." It should allow to, for the "determination of candidates for the coming general election."

Outspoken UDLP leader Douglas is however, not impressed. He told the NEW CHRONICLE in an interview last week-end his party is of the view that "broad-based labour unity...is a necessary step in preparation for removing the bourgeois Freedom Party government" from office. It was principally on this premise, Douglas explained that "we issued by way of a letter dated 28th March, an invitation to the DLP to commence the process."

Two official responses have surfaced from the DLP since then. The first signed by secretary Patrick John outlining the various "terms of reference regarded as necessary for the proposed discussion," suggested that Douglas would have to 'humble himself' in the interest of Labour Unity. The second, bearing the signature of party leader Oliver Seraphine was a virtual duplicate of the first, except that it threatened circulation of its contents to Labour Party members should Mr. Douglas fail to reply.

If the UDLP leader is understood properly however, the DLP has missed the point. He claims that the Freedom Party of Mary Eugenia Charles has a 60% chance of winning the elections with a decreased majority if called tomorrow particularly against the background of labour disunity." For that reason

Douglas further explains "it is absolutely necessary" that an electoral accommodation be formed to "effectively utilize" the divided Labour vote.

The UDLP's official response to the submissions from the DLP cite four of the five terms of reference as "unacceptable as a basis for serious discussion." For example, the party feels that the "leadership question in any political organization can be closed only when a form of dictatorship exists" but should normally remain "open and subject to the criticism and/or sanction of the general membership...."

Further, in the UDLP view "the process of unity does not.... require the suspension.... of any component of the process," nor does it necessitate "the acceptance of membership" in DLP camp. The idea is that the various factions seek an electoral accommodation aside from "ideological and other difference" and based on a "minimum program for the good of the majority."

On the question of the 'clarification of negative statements', the UDLP's stand as represented by its leader, is that "all statements made by the political leader of the UDLP.... are meant to enhance the political status of the organization...." All such statements according to the UDLP "have been in English and have been sufficiently well clarified."

On the question of the determination of the Labour candidates for the general election the UDLP's position is that it "be based on the work that he or she has done in the constituency over the previous years." It should also be carried out "by a selective process which is inherently democratic."

Against this background the UDLP has suggested in a letter to the DLP dated April 17th that the ice-breaking meeting's agenda provides for the examining, "the determination of a minimum-policy/working program, leadership, joint political committee, joint public meetings and determination of candidates."

If the DLP agrees, that meeting could take place on "Tuesday 1st May, 1984 at 10 a.m. at Moore Park." But the UDLP did not attend the meeting called by the DLP on April 13th in response to the UDLP leader's request. For this and other reasons the next step is anybody's guess, though both factions agree that "re-unifying the Labour movement is a responsibility" with which they "are all charged."

CSO: 3298/795

LABOUR SPLIT POSES DANGERS FOR 'SERIOUS OPPOSITION'

Roseau THE NEW CHRONICLE in English 27 Apr 84 p 4

[Editorial]

[Text]

OF all the many possibilities that could and are beginning to come out of disunity in the Labour Camp, we are concerned most with its clear contribution to fast declining serious opposition in the socio-political affairs of the Commonwealth of Dominica.

We share the view though, that the situation now facing the Labour Party is understandably a difficult one. Certainly it could not be the easiest of tasks to rebuild a political organization torn by internal disloyalties and public distrust over events that loomed large in the affairs of state during the turbulent 1979 era. Those events were not delusive fabrications. They were real. So too, their import for the future of the Labour movement.

But as far as certain top bracket personnel of the Labour Party are concerned, nothing happened. Things in Dominica were rosy and nice under the John administration.... South Africa, Free Port, Klu Klux Klan, attempted coups and so on, were quite alright and well in keeping with the "god-given" right of John and company to govern this nature island.

This is an unreasonable position. Men of stature... men worthy of the mantle of true leadership know what it is to be

humble and apologise. Indeed they understand and accept the importance of humbling themselves in the wake of wrong doing even towards preserving the dignity of the organizations they represent.

The Labour leaders don't understand that language. The question of principle does not seem to be part of their ball game, so anything goes. The entire Labour picture has become so distorted that a party which once held the reins of popular government is now being held to ransom by a band of men steeped deep in a strange desire to rule come hell or high water.

If they had any respect for the political institution in which they originally sought shelter they would allow it to find new life in more capable leadership untainted by public disrespect.

How now can they expect the support of a national consciousness that found them wanting and loaded with administrative malpractices heavy enough to sink any nation? How now do they re-enter the rank of the reputable in the absence of unequivocal repentance?

We submit that the current conflict within the Labour grouping will, for as long as it lasts guide that party to where the wrong and strong and arrogant reside... where it will serve no real important purpose in the affairs of state.

This is by no stretch of the imagination a healthy situation. It simply means further rapid decline in serious opposition with important implications for the democratic process depending of course, on how long it takes another group to rise to the occasion.

BRIEFS

NEW POLICE COMMISSIONER--COMMISSIONER of Police Oliver N. Phillip has tendered his resignation from the Commonwealth of Dominica Police Force as of 30th April 1984. Mr. Phillip served in the force for 37 years and held the post of Commissioner for a 12 year period. He will be replaced by his deputy Ensley Pierre. Mr. Pierre has served in the force for 34, years and was Commissioner of Police in St. Lucia from September 1977 to August 1979. In 1978, on the nomination of St. Lucia's Governor General he received the Queen's Police Medal for meritorious service and thus became the first Dominican to achieve that distinction. Commissioner Designate Pierre is assuming the top police post at a time when new moves towards regional security promise interesting implications for the police force in an armyless country. [Excerpts] [Roseau THE NEW CHRONICLE in English 27 Apr 84 p 1]

CSO: 3298/795

PREPARATIONS FOR, OUTCOME OF PEACE MEETING REPORTED

GCSP Program

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 5 Apr 84 p 4

[Text] PRESIDENT Forbes Burnham will address a Solidarity Rally at Sophia to bring the curtains down on the four-day Congress of the Guyana Committee for Solidarity and Peace (GCSP) scheduled to begin in the City on April 13.

Assistant Chief Political Adviser to the President, Halim Majeed who is performing the duties of the Organising Secretary of the GCSP, said Tuesday that several organisations have indicated their intentions to attend the Congress.

Positive responses have been received from the USSR, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Nicaragua, Dominica, the World Peace Council (WPC), the Caribbean Union of Teachers' and several other organisations, Cde Majeed disclosed.

Representatives from some 60 overseas organisations and 35 local affiliates have been invited to the Congress.

The Congress which opens with a ceremony at the Guyana National Service Sports Complex on Carifesta Avenue, includes the annual general meeting of the GCSP on Saturday, April 14, a meeting of peace forces on Sunday, April 15 and the Solidarity Rally on Monday, April 16.

The logistical arrangements are now being worked out and the compiling of the final delegates list is receiving attention, Cde Majeed said.

A meeting of the Planning Committee is scheduled for April 9 when details of the Congress will be finalised.

Themed "In Defence of National Sovereignty and Peace in the Caribbean and Latin America" the Congress is an expression of the Guyana's commitment to peace in the Region.

The Congress comes at a time when tensions have been heightened in the Region with the US-led invasions of Grenada in October last year.

Planned Rallies

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 10 Apr 84 p 3

[Text] Some seven post-Congress rallies are billed to follow the Guyana Committee for Solidarity and Peace (GCSP) Congress and Solidarity Meeting of Peace Forces which will take place in Georgetown from Friday, April 13 to Monday, April 16.

The most significant of these will be the Solidarity Rally in "Defence of National Sovereignty and Peace in the Caribbean and Latin American" (the theme of the Congress) to be addressed by President Forbes Burnham.

The rallies will be staged on the two days following the main portion of the Congress. On Tuesday, April 17, there will be a community meeting at the Uitvlugt Community Centre at 17:00 hrs, at the Sanata Textiles Limited, there will be a workers' meeting at 15:00 hrs and a similar meeting will be held in New Amsterdam at 13:30 hrs.

On Wednesday, April 18, at 17:00 hrs, there will be a community meeting at Lichas Hall, Linden, at 17.30 hrs, a workers' meeting at the Guyana Fisheries Limited, Houstaon and at 14:30 hrs, a similar meeting with the workers of the Mahaica-Mahaicony-Abary Agriculture Development Authority at Onverwagt.

There are also plans to stage some of the rural rallies at Anna Regina on the Essequibo Coast and in interior areas such as Mabaruma and Lethem.

Meanwhile, the GCSP President, Elvin McDavid, has described this event as the largest conference of its kinds in the Region. So far some twenty-one delegations from the Caribbean, Latin America, Eastern Europe and International peace organisations have indicated their intentions to participate.

Foreign Delegates at Rallies

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 18 Apr 84 p 1

[Text] EAST BERBICE: (GNA)--Two delegates from Chile and Nicaragua to the Solidarity and Peace Congress yesterday said that the conference, which has just ended, will strengthen the unity and upgrade the struggle of the people in Latin America and the Caribbean, in defence of their sovereignty and for peace in the Region.

Addressing a mass rally at the New Amsterdam Multilateral School, the Chilean delegate, Leoncio Saavadre said the imperialists scorn the sentiments and values dear to man, and aim mercilessly and coldly to submit man to exploitation.

Earlier, the Nicaraguan delegate Carlos Ramos Jimenez told the rally that people must defend themselves and prepare to fight for their true liberation against imperialism.

Cubans in Linden

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 18 Apr 84 p 1

[Text] LINDEN [GNA]--As part of its post-Congress activities the Guyana Committee for Solidarity and Peace [GCSP] will be sponsoring a rally in Linden this afternoon.

The rally will be held in St. Aidan's Primary School at Wismar and is expected to attract a cross-section of the Linden community. It begins at 17:00 hrs.

Speakers will include representatives from Cuba, Nicaragua, Dominica and the local body.

Congress Declaration

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 19 Apr 84 pp 1, 3

[Text] LOCAL and foreign representatives who concluded a Peace Congress in Guyana Monday have expressed great concern about the heightening of tensions in Latin America and the Caribbean as a result of current U.S. policies.

In a Georgetown Declaration, the meeting expressed its strongest support for the patriotic forces of Latin America which are waging the struggle for freedom under harsh and dangerous conditions. And delegates said they were convinced that in the final battle between the oppressors and the oppressed, the latter will emerge victorious.

In attendance at the meeting sponsored by the Guyana Committee for Solidarity and Peace (GCSP), were representatives from about 20 countries as well as distinguished members from the World Peace Council and other international and regional organisations.

It was observed that the Government of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana has come under increasing pressure from the U.S. Administration, particularly because of the ideological course it has charted, its militant role in the Non-Aligned Movement, its support for national liberation movements and its relationship with the Socialist community.

The meeting condemned the subtle and dangerous tactics employed by U.S. imperialism against Guyana, including vetoing of loans offered by multinational financial institutions and promotion of smear campaigns by the Western Press.

"...Imperialism must immediately cease all acts of destabilisation and aggression against the People and Government of Guyana..." the Declaration stated.

Participants further condemned the deployment of new American missiles in Europe, heightening the danger of nuclear catastrophe.

"This aggressive U.S. policy poses a great threat to peace, unity and stability in the Middle East, Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean," the Declaration continued.

It emphasised that US. imperialism is intensifying its offensive against peace-loving people and nations which are pursuing an independent path to social and economic development.

In addition, delegates condemned vigorously the US-led invasion of Grenada and demanded the withdrawal of all foreign troops from the island.

It also supported the Sandinista Popular Revolution, and demanded that the US withdraw its military forces from Honduras.

Further, a call was made for all imperialist forces to cease their interference in the internal affairs of El Salvador, Chile and other Latin American and Caribbean countries.

The meeting passed a number of resolutions condemning the policies of the U.S. in the Region, and calling for the respect of the people's wish for freedom and self-determination.

CSO: 3298/796

AMAZONIAN COOPERATION COMMITTEE DISCUSSES PROGRAMS

Meeting Plans

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 15 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] THE Guyana Permanent Commission on Amazonian Co-operation is planning to meet shortly to discuss national programmes which could receive assistance from other Amazonian countries.

A Foreign Ministry official said the Ministry was now working towards an early meeting of the Commission, which was appointed in November last year.

Headed by the Permanent Secretary in the Foreign Affairs Ministry, Dennis Gouveia, the Commission has been mandated to work out and help implement national programmes likely to benefit under the Treaty of Amazonian Co-operation.

Guyana and seven other countries are signatories to the treaty which came into force in 1980. They are Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela.

The local Ministry of Health, it is understood, is particularly interested in the treaty under which there is provision for technical co-operation in the field of tropical diseases.

At its first meeting, the Commission is expected to identify other areas in which assistance could be obtained.

Review of Local Input

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 6 Apr 84 p 8

[Text] GUYANA's Permanent Commission on Amazonian Co-operation met for the first time last Friday to discuss local programmes which could receive assistance from other Amazonian member states.

A news release from the Foreign Affairs Ministry said the Commission has agreed to set up subcommissions to deal with specific areas of co-operation including science and technology, transport and communication, health and the development of natural resources.

Meeting at BIDCO House, the Commission also began analysing the report of the second meeting of Foreign Ministers of Amazonian countries, held in Cali, Colombia, last December. The Commission, headed by the Permanent Secretary in the Foreign Affairs Ministry Dennis Gouveia, has been mandated to help implement and monitor national programmes likely to benefit under the Treaty of Amazonian Co-operation.

Guyana and seven other countries are signatories to the Treaty which came into force in 1980. The others are Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela.

The Commission comprises representatives from the Office of the President, the State Planning Commission, the University of Guyana, the Institute of Applied Science and Technology, the Ministries of Economic Planning and Regional Development and the PNC Secretariat are also represented on the local body.

Secretary to the Commission is Cheryl Miles, Head of the Frontiers Division in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

CSO: 3298/797

HEADS OF MISSIONS BACK FOR CONFERENCE, HEAR LEADERS

Preparations for Meeting

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 8 Apr 84 p 24

[Text] PRESIDENT Forbes Burnham will deliver the main address at the formal opening of the annual Heads of Mission conference on Friday, April 13, at the Sophia Convention Centre.

Twelve of the 13 Heads of Mission, including Consuls-General, are already back home, and are attending the General Council of the Ruling People's National Congress (PNC) being held at Sophia. Guyana's Ambassador to Brazil Hubert Jack is due to arrive here this week.

A Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman said that this year's conference will focus on the role of the ministry and of the foreign service in the execution of policies to ensure national survival.

Top-level diplomats and other delegates to the conference are expected to work out a programme to assist in national economic recovery through the promotion of trade and economic activity with other countries.

The formal conference sessions, excluding the opening session, will be held at the Ogle Management Training Centre from April 13-28, with a break over the Easter week-end. Representatives from the PNC Secretariat, the Young Socialist Movement and the Women's Revolutionary Socialist Movement will also attend these sessions.

From tomorrow the Heads of Mission will be involved in preliminary sessions during which they will review developments in various sectors of the country's economy.

These preliminary sessions will involve discussions with Vice-President, Production Desmond Hoyte; Energy and Mines Minister Harun Rashid; and Finance and Economic Planning Minister Carl Greenidge.

The Heads will also meet Prime Minister Ptolemy Reid on April 13.

According to the Ministry spokesman, the upcoming "Briefing" and "Debriefing" involving the country's top diplomats will include an appraisal of the global political environment and its impact on and implications for Guyana's development.

Burnham Address

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 14 Apr 84 p 1

[Text] PRESIDENT Forbes Burnham has said Guyana is seeking to develop more meaningful and extensive economic and trade links with Third World and Eastern European countries.

Speaking yesterday at the formal opening of the annual Heads of Mission Conference at Sophia auditorium, he urged Guyana's top diplomats to become more alert, in countries where they are based, to opportunities from which Guyana could benefit.

President Burnham congratulated the 16 Heads of Mission present, including Consuls-General, for having done a good job so far in "the most trying circumstances" and furthering Guyana's interests against fearful odds.

Referring to a recent call by some developing nations for more assistance from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Cde. Burnham said this was "a picturesque baying at the moon (and) the replacement of realities with dreams". The rich countries, he added, were not going to release the funds.

The Guyanese leader said developing countries need to rely on their own device and resources, and to devote more time in pursuit of South-South co-operation.

"We need not be mendicants. We must not get the impression that Guyana is resourceless, what we need is human resourcefulness.

"We are capable of producing things that both traditional and non-traditional trading partners need", he added, while noting Guyana's rich mineral resources and its agricultural potential.

Cde. Burnham mentioned several areas--including mineral exploitation and hydro-power development--in which Guyana was likely to obtain assistance from other developing and friendly countries. He also spoke of the potential of counter-trade for obtaining industrial equipment and machinery and other vital commodities.

He said there was need for "a conscious re-orientation and de-brainwashing" to remove the belief that good things come only from North America and Western Europe.

Foreign Affairs Minister, Rashleigh Jackson also spoke at yesterday morning's session. He told the gathering, which included Vice-Presidents, Ministers, Senior Government officials and Heads of Public Corporations, that the 1984 Heads of Mission Conference will focus on ways of promoting trade and economic activity with other countries.

Prime Minister, Ptolemy Reid met with delegates at the first formal conference session yesterday afternoon at the Ogle Management Training Centre.

Over the next two weeks (the conference ends on April 28 with a self-help exercise at the Hope Estate), the top-level diplomats and other delegates will look at the global political environment and its impact on and implications for Guyana's developmental thrust.

In addition, they will analyse the role of information in the overall strategy for economic recovery.

Meeting With Officials

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 15 Apr 84 pp 1, 8

[Text] THE Heads of Guyana's missions abroad now home for the annual Heads of Mission conference, are meeting at Ogle at the request of the participants, Guyana's Foreign Minister, Cde. Rashleigh Jackson has said.

Prior to the formal opening of the conference Friday, the diplomats had held discussions with Minister of Energy and Mines, Cde. Harun Rashid; Vice-President, Production, Cde. Desmond Hoyte; and a team from the Ministry of Economic Planning and Finance headed by Cde. Carl Greenidge.

As Cde. Jackson remarked, this year is the first time that the diplomats participated in a General Council meeting of the People's National Congress prior to their meeting at the conference.

This year's meeting accommodates two new diplomats, Cde. Steve Naraine, who has been accredited Guyana's High Commissioner to India, and Cde. Hubert Jack, Guyana's Ambassador to Brazil.

And at Friday's opening session, Cde. Rudy Insanally, was named Dean of Missions, replacing Cde. John Carter who retired from active service in the diplomatic fields since 1966. He was appointed Dean from the inception of Guyana's foreign service.

CSO: 3298/797

GOVERNMENT PLEDGES CONTINUED SUPPORT TO COMMONWEALTH

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 13 Mar 84 pp 1, 4

[Text] GUYANA has pledged its continued commitment to the work of the 48-member Commonwealth grouping. Commonwealth Day was observed yesterday.

In a message to the London-based Commonwealth Secretariat, the Guyana Government described the Commonwealth institutions as "encouraging models for a more enlightened relationship between North and South, as well as among developing countries."

The Commonwealth, the message stated, is uniquely placed as an institution to promote the interests of its members, and to advance the cause of a world order to bring greater justice to all mankind.

The message reads:

"The Government and People of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana are pleased to join in the celebration of Commonwealth Day.

"As in previous years, the occasion serves to remind the world--but more particularly the members of the Commonwealth family--of the great value of the association of independent nations brought together in the spirit of friendship and trust.

"The institutions of the Commonwealth undoubtedly continue to provide a framework for interdependence and joint activity upon which has been built an informal but highly functional system of practical co-operation. They have in fact developed into encouraging models for a more enlightened relationship between North and South and also, very importantly, among developing countries themselves.

"In the words of the New Delhi communique, which issued from the last Heads of Government conference, we in the Commonwealth believe that: 'we can be particularly effective when, as a representative group of developing and developed nations, we can speak with a common voice to the rest of the world. We have found a common voice on certain specific and immediate issues and we believe that we can point the way forward on the more complex, long-term questions. Indeed, our interests and influence extend beyond the purely

economic and social issues to those of wider political concern for peace and security and international relations.

"The Commonwealth is therefore, uniquely placed as an institution to promote the interest of its members and to advance the cause of a world order which is intended to bring greater justice to all mankind. Persuaded by this faith, the Government and People of Guyana will intensify their commitment to the work of the Commonwealth so that opportunities for its success are fully pursued and explored.

"In observing this special day we would also wish to convey our warmest greetings and good wishes to the Secretary-General, the Secretariat and all sister States within the Commonwealth and to express the hope that our association will flourish in the years ahead to the benefit and satisfaction of all."

CSO: 3298/798

CUBA PROVIDES ASSISTANCE TO DAIRY, CATTLE INDUSTRIES

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 15 Apr 84 p 8

[Text] Guyana's dairy and beef-cattle industry is getting a boost from one of the leading Socialist countries in the Caribbean, Cuba. Cuba is giving to Guyana, 300 cows and 5000 shots of frozen semen for the local artificial insemination programme.

This deal followed discussions between the Mixed Commissions of Guyana and Cuba when Central Committee member, Cde Richard Van West Charles, headed a Guyana delegation to Cuba earlier this year.

And following barter agreements between the two countries Cuba has agreed to exchange cement for Guyana's rice and lumber.

Guyana's Ambassador to Cuba, Cde Cecil Pilgrim, who addressed the quarterly General Council meeting of the People's National Congress on the final day, said it is now imperative that Guyana attains a level of production to satisfy our end of the arrangement.

"Economic relations with Socialist countries are of immense importance to Guyana. At present Guyana has a high profile position in Cuba", he added.

Cde Pilgrim noted that the relationship between Guyana and Cuba has reached high levels because of the present political climate in which this country, under the leadership of Comrade Leader, Cde Forbes Burnham has been able to maintain its principled position on issues including those dealing with sovereignty and peace.

Guyana has a substantial number of doctors being trained in Cuba and the sister Caribbean state has been supplying this country with medical brigades, he said. Recently a 22-member medical brigade from Cuba joined this country's team of doctors to help provide for a better medical service to the people of Guyana, he added.

On our part this country can exploit a market situation in Cuba where there is an opportunity for us to sell legumes, Cde Pilgrim said.

CSO: 3298/798

NEW TRAWLER RECEIVED BUT ANOTHER DISAPPEARS AT SEA

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 16 Apr 84 p 8

[Text] GUYANA Fisheries Limited \$1,5M fishing trawler "Butter Fish" has disappeared at sea, and according to GFL Executive Chairman, Robert Williams, this might be the outcome of an illegal trade deal on the high seas.

Chairman Williams made this disclosure on Saturday, and has called on all Guyanese who may have information about the sale of the trawler or illegal sale of prawns at sea, to report to the nearest Police station. "Your safety will be guaranteed," he promised.

Cde. Williams who said he had information that the "Butter Fish" was seen in Colombia was speaking at the handing over ceremony of a new trawler "Lady Fish". It was handed over to G.F.L. by GNEC which built it under a contract with Bender Shipyards of Alabama.

Cde. Williams said that the trawlers are expected to make a vital input to the development and the economy of the country. Therefore, he was exceedingly happy that GNEC was able to hand over two of the five remaining trawlers from the original order of 22.

But the number was still inadequate to exploit the resources in the Guyana Fishing Zone, and the situation worsens with the disappearance of the "Butter Fish", he said.

He added: "We want to get on with the business of shrimping so that we can provide the necessary foreign exchange.

The report about the performance of the first trawler, the "Silver Side" disclosed that it was bringing in more 'catch' than all the others. And it is hoped that the "Lady Fish" will perform even better.

The Chairman observed that a trawler of the type, cost the people of Guyana \$1,5M and therefore the disappearance of the "Butter Fish" caused much concern to G.F.L. Pointing out that G.F.L. cannot use one trawler to watch another, he added: "We have to depend on the co-operation of the crew and possibly God to protect equipment."

It had been brought to the attention of G.F.L. that some of the trawler captains dispose of their 'catch' at sea for commodities and for foreign money.

GNEC Chairman Claude Saul said that his organisation would be offering maintenance services to GFL to ensure greater production and productivity.

The representative of Bender, Mr. Calvin Beverley, said that his company was satisfied with the arrangement with GNEC and would continue to provide the local firm with the necessary raw materials.

CSO: 3298/798

BAIL DENIED FOUR CHARGED IN FINANCE MINISTRY FRAUD

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE In English 5 Apr 84 p 1

[Text] FOUR of the eight persons charged in the Ministry of Finance [Treasury] \$2,8 million fraud were refused bail yesterday by City Magistrate Denis Hanoman-Singh.

Riley Thomas called Riley Daniels or "Frank", an absconded soldier, Gregory Changlee called "Jeff," a clerk at Guyana National Printers Ltd, Laurie Lespuer, a former clerk at the Ministry of Finance and Ernest Wright, a Mayor and City Council driver were remanded to prison until April 17.

They are accused, together with Colin Raphael, Zenadeen Jameer Jr. and Pamela Elizabeth Thomas called Pamela Belle, all former clerks at the Ministry of Finance and Surujlall Sookraj called "Rick," of stealing \$2 787 722.70 from the Government of Guyana between January 24, 1983 and March 13, 1984.

Magistrate Hanoman-Singh issued warrants for the arrest of Raphale, Jameer, Thomas and Sookraj who were absent and are reportedly out of the country.

A Police source said it was believed that two of the accused are in Suriname, one in Barbados and one in the United States and efforts are being made to bring them back to Guyana.

Meanwhile, Crime Chief Cecil "Skip" Roberts said two female detectives were still at the Ministry of Finance and were continuing to find more documents connected to the case.

Since the charges were announced, an East Coast Headmaster, who allegedly received two gratuity cheques, was questioned at Police Headquarters and sent away.

Cde. Roberts also disclosed that since a charge of larceny was laid against Marcia Persuad of Station Street, Kitty, accusing her of stealing \$7 000 from the Customs Department at Timehri, Police have seized documents relating to all the transactions which took place at Timehri Customs over the past year.

He said it appears as though thousands of dollars collected as duty was not paid over into the Government coffers. Two other suspects in this case have been questioned.

POLICE BATON SQUAD TO GO AFTER YOUNG LOITERERS; WPA OBJECTS

Threat From Green

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 8 Apr 84 p 4

[Text] A baton-wielding squad within the Guyana Police Force is being contemplated to rid the City streets of the parasitic cigarette vendors who insist on retailing cigarettes at blackmarket prices.

Outside DEMICO House alone there are more than 32 established young men and women who hawk these cigarettes at seventy-five cents each.

The squad will concentrate on removing the young and able-bodied men and women who can spend their time more beneficially in the interest of promoting genuine development.

The economy will in no way benefit from this exploitative enterprise. Some argue that it is providing an outlet for the number of house-breakers and "car-parts" culprits.

There is work in industry and agriculture and these energetic men and women have long outlived the grace period. No appeals will be entertained from any quarter and according to Vice President, Social Infrastructure and Central Committee member, Cde Hamilton Green, "it is a shameful waste of human resources". If these vendors use the opportunities which exist to acquire skills and till the land, individually and as groups, we will all be better-off, he added.

Cde Green noted, "It is disgusting to see able bodied men and women like vultures, selling cigarettes and the like on the street corners," and any time now, this squad will hit the road and the attack will be directed at the able-bodied!

WPA Protest

Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 15 Apr 84 p 4

[Text] In a Press Release dated Tues. April 10 the Working Peoples' Alliance has denounced plans for the creation of a "baton-wielding" squad to be used against cigarette vendors in Georgetown.

The Release described the plan as a "cold-blooded threat to visit brutality on people struggling to stay away from crime."

The plan was reported in the New Nation of Sun. April 8 which stated that "the Squad will concentrate on removing the young and able-bodied men and women who can spent their time more beneficially in the interest of promoting genuine development."

The WPA Release claimed that "the ban on wheat flour, channa and peas has forced many who used to make and sell snack foods from these items to cigarette vending."

CSO: 3298/798

HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP CONDEMNS RANDOM AIRPORT SEARCHES

Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 8 Apr 84 p 2

[Text] REPORTS that large numbers of passengers, randomly selected, have been stripped and searched at Timehri and Springlands has caused great annoyance to the Guyanese public and concern to the Guyana Human Rights Association (GHRA).

The latter has issued a Press Release stating that the practice has no legal basis.

"Before searching a person, according to our exchange control legislation, the police must have "reasonable grounds for suspicion", GHRA says.

"Such grounds must relate specifically to the person being searched".

The Release continues:

"A number of practices which are becoming commonplace violate the law.

"Searching an entire planeload of people is clearly ruled out by the regulations, as are 'spot checks' or random selection, such as, picking 'every tenth person'.

"In one of the instances reported to the GHRA a policeman approached a group in the public area of the airport and enquired who in the group was travelling. When the person was identified only then was she directed to be searched. Such acts infringe the law.

"In addition to the numbers being searched there have been many complaints about the crude and vulgar manner in which these searches are being carried out.

"Taken together the complaints depict a situation of callousness and abuse.

"Women are subjected to humiliating remarks about discovering whether they are virgins; several people have been stripped simultaneously in the same room, albeit by persons of the same sex; hygienic considerations are non-existent; toilet articles have been strewn on the ground and had to be discarded subsequently.

"No respect is accorded the person searched.

"We wish to draw to the attention of the public and the police the words of Lord Denning in Ghani vs. Jones (1970): "A man's liberty of movement is regarded so highly by the law of England that it is not to be hindered or prevented except on the surest grounds"

"We see no reason why our police should expect Guyanese citizens to accept any lesser standard.

"Leaving the country is being treated almost as a crime.

"As with possession of certain essential food items, police practice in this regard is making criminals of us all.

"The GHRA encourages all travellers to seek legal advice as to their rights on this issue".

CSO: 3298/799

OPPOSITION ELEMENTS RAP IMF TALKS, ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

Government's Failure

Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 8 Apr 84 p 2

[Article by Ron Pieters, S.J.]

[Text] "...even if we all perish, since we are only one million people, we wouldn't create a public nuisance". These words of President Burnham quoted in the New York Times of Oct. 12, 1982 seem frighteningly to sum up one possible outcome of Guyana's apparently endless crisis.

Yet we are told in the scriptures that God so loved the world that he sent His only begotten son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Both of these possibilities are open to us as a nation. The choice is ours: either to continue on an undemocratic course which ignores the rights of the people to food, proper education, health facilities, freedom of speech, travel and association without hinderance - a path which destroys the mind, body and spirit.

Or to follow a path which respects the rights and needs of our citizens, enabling them to grow into full stature as dignified human beings.

It is easy these days to give in to despair and think of perishing.

Wages are frozen at \$11: a day and the President has even been empowered by the Labour (Amendment) Bill 1984 to reduce them.

Prices, especially for food, have risen to unbelievable levels and continue to rise.

A light bulb is \$11: and the price of salt, when it can be obtained, has been fixed at 32¢ per lb.

Mostly it is available only on the blackmarket at \$1: for a few ounces.

There are signs of despair all around us.

It appears that on the human and material levels Guyana's only hope is to enter into an agreement with the IMF.

Even this at times seems a vain hope.

Massive injections of foreign aid in the past failed to keep the economy buoyant. Conditions have steadily worsened.

Thus it seems most unlikely that further injections could have better results.

In any case this elusive agreement between this government and that institution possesses a certain mirage quality. It keeps disappearing as soon as it comes into sight.

The IMF has insisted on a 60% devaluation of our currency. But Guyana has devalued by only 25%.

The Fund has requested the scrapping of the Rice Board. This has not been done. Instead four departments have been formed including export and milling.

All the while the government tries to keep the people in the dark about these negotiations and to cover up its half-hearted attempts to comply with the IMF demands.

Many, however, see through these attempts and are aware of the King's nakedness; although he is not naked enough for the IMF.

Jagan Condemnation

Georgetown MIRROR in English 15 Apr 84 p 1

[Text] ppp General Secretary Dr. Cheddi Jagan told a public meeting in Buxton last week that Guyana needs a new government that would take a revolutionary course.

If this is not realised, the former Guyanese Premier said, the country will continue to stagnate, sink deeper into the economic/financial crisis, and drift into the imperialist orbit.

He analysed at length for the villagers who converged on the abandoned railway line, the root causes of the crisis, blaming for it the "state, bureaucratic, co-operative and parasitic capitalism" of the ruling PNC.

Dr. Jagan exposed the PNC deals with the International Monetary Fund, which are resulting in greater hardships for the working people. He added that the regime was gravitating towards imperialism, though sheltering under radical slogans, while refusing to meaningfully develop relations with the socialist countries.

The Guyanese leader recalled the generous and fraternal assistance which the Soviet Union and Cuba, as well as other countries of the socialist community,

gave in the '60s to the PPP government during the difficult period of imperialist-CIA destabilisation. He declared that socialist countries want to help the Guyanese people, to provide food and facilities for jobs, but the PNC preferred to play games with imperialism.

The problem is that the PNC regime is undemocratic and relies on force, fraud and fear to stay in power. The production bottleneck could be solved if there is people's democratic participation in the process. But the PNC does not want democracy at any level out of fear of losing political control and a corrupt way of life, the PPP leader concluded.

Earlier, he discussed the alternative plan of the party and explained the proposals of a National Patriotic Front. Dr. Jagan stressed the need for a broad-based government, reflective of the interests of the working class, peasantry, progressive intellectuals, and patriotic businessmen.

He urged the working people not to despair, but to support the PPP which is making gains in the struggle for working class and racial unity, and preparing the basis for the genuine freedom of Guyana.

Impact of Parallel Market

Georgetown MIRROR in English 15 Apr 84 p 1

[Text] THE continuing shortage of basic consumer goods gives no indication of abating in the near future. More and more goods are entering the economy by clandestine means and the parallel market is booming, despite police crackdowns. Even exercise books are in short supply. MIRROR understands that many items on sale in the parallel and legal markets are from Brazil, even items normally produced in Guyana.

There is a strange shortage of exercise books, and it is noted that some thin 40-page exercise books from Brazil are being sold at \$3 each. Local matches have virtually vanished, and in their place are Brazilian matches being sold at 75 cents per box. The Brazilian boxes have about twice the number of matches in them than local boxes.

Following the removal of price controls from aerated beverages, shops are retailing this item at prices ranging from 75 cents to \$1.25 each. The former prices was 50 cents each.

The milk crisis continues with a severe shortage. On the blackmarket, powdered milk sells at prices ranging from \$95 to \$100 per 5 lb tin when available. Breakfast foods and beverages are also available on the blackmarket. Bread from wheat flour has risen to \$6 per loaf of some 3 ounces, compared to \$5 before devaluation. Soap and soap products are available only on the black market and at exorbitant prices.

Mirror further understands that profiteers are doing a brisk trade with wheat flour throughout the length and breadth of Guyana. Probably, according to reports, the entire coastline is used for smuggling operations while large

amounts of the item enter the country from across the frontier[s] [words illegible] speed boats. Vending of this item is done in homes and shops, many of which have been uncovered by police and raided.

In one densely populated village on the East Bank, Demerara, reports say that a vendor freely sells wheat flour in wholesale quantities. Buyers come in cars and other vehicles and pay \$5.50 per lb for the item. Orders are usually placed one day and the item is collected the next day.

Cooking oil is still in great demand, but freely obtainable only from the blackmarket. Coconut oil is fetching \$11 per pint, up by \$1 since devaluation. Dry coconuts range from \$1.50 each to \$2 each. Consumers say they rarely find coconuts selling at \$1 each nowadays.

Government has plainly fallen down on its promise to provide the nation with cooking oil, soap, soap powder milk, cheese [words illegible] cheap fish, cheap beef, [word illegible]. Chicken, beef, pork and fish [on] the retail market continue at incredible prices, while eggs have stabilised at 50 to 60 cents each in the city.

PNC Flirtation With Imperialism

Georgetown MIRROR in English 15 Apr 84 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text] THE [word illegible] People's National Congress plays a lot of games. If the games were innocent, like those children play, no harm would be done. But the PNC plays games which result in ultimate harm to the whole nation and are to a great extent responsible for the terrible state of the country today.

THEY play all kinds of games with the people's rights, with imperialism, even with one of the most fundamental problems of our time, that of peace. The games about peace are fully tabulated in this week's Straight Talk printed on this page.

THE game with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has been going on for years. One might better express it as a game of the people's worsening conditions played off with the IMF. First, we are plunged into devastating agreements with the IMF without any form of consultation with Guyanese at any level, and find ourselves caught in a trap that means retrenchment, frozen wages, higher taxes, loss of food subsidies and increased payments for NIS and Widows' and Orphans' Fund. We experience devaluations under IMF diktats, and the cost of living keeps rising and the freeze on wages goes down several degrees. Then the game starts up. The PNC declares from all the various rostrums that it will never, repeat never, make another deal with the IMF. Before we have time to recover from these loud declarations, the games start again. Bam! A new devaluation triggers the cost of living into a new high--just everything goes up in price. The PNC is pleasing the IMF!

BUT while prices skyrocket, the PNC regime plays several games at once. First, it starts revealing plans to enter into negotiations again with the IMF. Then it makes new concessions to the IMF by assurances that wages under no circumstances will go up. To prove the point, the regime introduces a piece of legislation which even the former colonial power could never have concocted--the iniquitous Labour Amendment Bill, hammering more devastating blows at the working class, which it is bent on dividing and destroying. Why? Working class unity is one of the gravest threats to the PNC regime, and can be the instrument of its demise.

IN the '70s, the PNC regime attempted to bring into law the Trades Dispute Bill which sought to strangle trade union rights. The PPP led a vigorous campaign to defeat it and mustered protests from the trade union movement, thus holding up the passage of this treacherous legislation. This time the PNC regime, learning from that experience, rushed the bill through the parliament in all its stages, giving no time for the trades union movement to galvanise into action to prevent its passage. At the same time, it used its manipulative devices to curb any real opposition from the official TUC. This little game led to millions of dollars in wages being lost to workers.

ANOTHER game the PNC is playing is that of shadow boxing with imperialism. We hear what sounds like brave and fiery attacks on imperialism, but at the same time, we need not look too far to see that it is really a game, really shadow boxing. We can see it right in the PNC's official organ the New Nation. (See the PPP statement exposing this game--MIRROR, April 1).

BACK and forth the PNC goes--attacking imperialism, then squaring it up by equating the USSR and the USA in the so-called 'two imperialisms' game; then playing the China-USSR game (to please the USA) and on goes the 'hold me-lose me' game of the PNC as it dodges back and forth, posturing as a radical Third World leader, but with hand behind back stretched out for the maximum in US aid.

THE games they play are not very clever. As a result Guyana has gone deeper and deeper into trouble. The PNC vacillations have led us nowhere, except downwards. As PPP General Secretary Cheddi Jagan said to the National Assembly during the last budget debate: 'In the final analysis it is the class struggle which will determine the outcome of Guyana's future. Herein lies the future of Guyana and the PPP will be there to lead this struggle, to see a new dawn for Guyana.'

CSO: 3298/799

GUYSUCO ADMITS TAKING ACTION AGAINST NAACIE STRIKERS

Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 15 Apr 84 pp 1, 2

[Text] THE GUYANA Sugar Corporation (Guysuco) has in a letter dated March 30, but delivered by hand on April 4, confirmed that it has taken action against union members who recently went on strike.

Claiming that the strike was in breach of agreements made between the Union and itself, the Corporation said it had refused to deduct union dues and other sums of money required to be deducted by Agreement.

NAACIE had also complained that Guysuco had victimised workers who had been acting in higher positions before the strike by reverting them to their substantive posts after the strike.

The Union in a letter to Guysuco dated April 6 reiterated that the strike had been legitimate and rejects the Corporation's claim that it had breached any agreement.

The strike, it said, had been called when the Corporation failed to honour the decision of the Appeal Court, the highest Court in the land, directing the Corporation to pay increments. These increments, at least at that time were legally due.

"Our Union cannot be blamed for taking action in the absence of any response as to payments".

The Union had called off the strike after legislation had been enacted in Parliament on March 16, 1984.

Resumption of work had been ordered as from March 20.

The Union said it was unaware of any "continuing breach" as was alleged in Guysuco's letter and offered to meet the Corporation to discuss the allegations.

CSO: 3298/799

PPP REPORTS, CONDEMNS CONSERVATIVE PARTY ACTIVITIES

Party's Invitation to U.S.

Georgetown MIRROR in English 8 Apr 84 p 4

[Text] The treachery of the Conservative Party of Guyana (CPG) which is based in Canada, is daily being exposed by that mini group's own mouthings and writings. The outfit (with a lot of money at its command) is publishing a news sheet titled OBJECTIVE GUYANA which it bills as "a monthly publication of the Conservative Party in Guyana."

The rag recently carried a bold headline trumpeting "To the Guyanese Public Abroad and the International Community in the Free World", Scurrilous "news items" are carried well larded with racism, treason, libel, distortions and half-truths.

In one item which patently invites US imperialism to intervene in Guyana, which intervention is also envisaged to be hurled against the PPP, the rag said:

'Fact: President Ronald Reagan is not programmed to give up another country to communism.

Fact: The American people and Congress will have to decide whether they regard Guyana and the rest of South America as important to US national security.

Fact: The Conservative Party of Guyana is dedicated to the resistance to Marxist-Leninist totalitarianism.'

Anti-communist regimes (like the one the CPG dreams of violently setting up in Guyana) are ruthless violators of human rights as in El Salvador for example.

The so-called Fact No. 2 is a treasonous incitement to the imperialist US government to carry out a Grenada type military adventure in Guyana.

Denunciation by Overseas Guyanese

Georgetown MIRROR in English 15 Apr 84 p 1

[Text] THE Association of Concerned Guyanese in Canada (ACG) has scathingly denounced the terrorist mini-group operating in that country under the title of 'Conservative Party of Guyana' (CPG). In an editorial in its organ Guyana Current, the ACG said:

"The Association of Concerned Guyanese condemns the recent attempts made by the Conservative Party of Guyana to export weapons to Guyana to engage in assassination. This action was intended not only for the government, but mainly to eliminate the leadership and members of the PPP and to crush the Party.

A perusal of the literature of the CPG would demonstrate its intense hatred for the PPP, for democracy and for socialism. Volume 1 Number 1 of the CPG newsletter states: "The CPG is working to destroy any legal and justifiable means, the influence of those politicians and people in position of power who promote Communism in Guyana. The work of the CPG is based on one fundamental idea: to hinder and break the advance of communist totalitarianism."

The ACG in its editorial went on to make the point that "no revolution can be exported". It further remarked: "A few people living in Canada cannot dictate a revolutionary struggle inside Guyana. It is the Guyanese people themselves who must analyse the objective conditions obtaining in Guyana, and decide how and when to make the revolution. A revolution is not made by the physical removal of some individuals and replacing them by others as the CPG seems to think.

"A revolution is actually the triumph of one class over another. History tells us that in the 1960s, the CIA along with British imperialism and local Guyanese puppets, installed the PNC saying it was 'the lesser of two evils'. Today, when the PNC is crumbling and the PPP is seen as the alternative, imperialism is once again on the attack, organising and financing every kind of group ostensibly to oppose the PNC, but in reality to demolish the PPP."

The ACG editorial called for racial and working class unity, without which there will be no solution to our country's problems, and strongly backed the PPP proposal for a National Patriotic Front Government.

CSO: 3298/800

PNC GENERAL COUNCIL WEIGHS REORGANIZATION, OTHER ISSUES

Executive Restructuring

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 8 Apr 84 p 1

[Text]

THE ruling People's National Congress (PNC) is restructuring its executive arm to better monitor the performance of the party and state machinery.

The restructuring exercise is among matters being discussed at the current General Council meeting of the party which got under way at Sophia last Thursday. The meeting ends today.

In his first major presentation at the meeting, Party Leader, President Forbes Burnham explained that it is intended that there will be four Sub-Committees, each of which will be responsible for taking policy initiatives in their respective fields.

One Sub-Committee to be headed by Cde. Cammie Ramsaroop with Cde. Gowkarran Sharma as Secretary, will be responsible for party matters and mass organisations; a second to be headed by Vice President Desmond Hoyte with Cde. Oscar Clarke as Secretary, will be responsible for production; the third, to be headed by Cde. Urmia Johnson with Cde. Leslie Dundas as Secretary will be responsible for Administration and Finance; and, the fourth — National Orientation and International Relations — will be headed by Cde. Ranji Chandisingh with Cde. Malcolm Parris as Secretary.

Cde. Burnham explained that the Sub-Committees which should meet monthly,

should be seen as mechanisms for ensuring that policies are adhered to and that plans and programmes are executed.

The Sub-Committees, he added, should emphasise the energising of party and other officials, giving them encouragement and inspiration in preference to emphasising punishment and sanctions.

Cde. Burnham also reviewed some aspects of the global political and economic situation and cautioned against Guyanese day-dreaming and hoping that aid would be forthcoming readily from conventional sources.

He contended, however, that as a result of arrangements being made by the Guyana Government, this year could well turn out as one of the best years for Guyana in recent times.

In detailing some of the arrangements, he spoke about plans for utilising the country's vast resources in consortia with other nations and foreign agencies, to the mutual benefit and advantage of Guyana and the several overseas parties.

The consortia arrangements span a wide field which includes hydropower development, gold mining, forestry, fishing and agricultural development.

"If we don't make it, it will be our fault. 1984 can be a year of success," Cde. Burnham told General Council.

Yesterday's session was devoted to presentations by heads of government corporations, ministries, departments and agencies. In their presentations, the heads outlined the major problems being experienced by their respective entities, and spoke about the initiatives they are taking "which demonstrate creativity and resourcefulness" in solving these problems.

The meeting being chaired by Vice President Mohammed Shahabuddeen, continues today when heads of Guyana's missions overseas will present their reports. Cde. Burnham is scheduled to make his second major intervention.

Regional Self-Sufficiency

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 8 Apr 84 p 1

[Text]

The second quarterly General Council meeting of the People's National Congress which ends today promises to be one of the more educative meetings this year, with Regional Chairmen reporting on some of the positive aspects of developments over the past three months.

For the first time, they have been able to report that they are working towards making their individual Regions self-sufficient, following the advice of PNC Leader, Cde Forbes Burnham.

Region Seven, with its problems of inadequate transportation and fuel distribution, is concentrating on produce best suited for cultivation in the area, and Region Two, with its abundance of rice, has begun to produce rice flour although the first quantity was small.

Earlier, the Comrade Leader, Cde Forbes Burnham, had stated that he did not expect to go to a Region to be fed with food that had to be imported from another Region. Region Seven, with the ability to produce countless

tonnes of ground provision, had treated him to a rice meal when he visited there. Yesterday, the heads of government ministries and corporations were scheduled to report to General Council on the actions taken to solve some of the problems in the Regions.

Gaibank has already begun its programme of decentralisation and the Agriculture Ministry, under Central Committee member, Cde Desmond Hoyte, has already begun assigning Field Officers to the various Regions as part of the national programme to promote agriculture for the survival and development of the nation.

Other highlights of the four-day General Council meeting were reports on the People's Co-operative Units, the biennial conventions of the Women's Revolutionary Socialist Movement and the Young Socialist Movement, discussions to mark the observation of the 150th anniversary of the abolition of slavery and the upcoming conference of the Guyana Committee for Solidarity and Peace.

Plans for Biennial Congress

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 8 Apr 84 p 1

[Text] The Sixth Biennial Congress of the People's National Congress is not scheduled to be held before August next year, but already the congress committee has been reconvened.

Under the Chairmanship of Central Committee member, Cde Cammie Ramasaroop, the congress committee met Monday and immediately tasked the Finance Committee with setting targets for the congress purse and with preparing the financial report.

As Cde Ramsaroop explained, Monday's preparatory meeting was one in a series of monthly meetings to ensure a successful sixth biennial congress.

Central Committee member Cde Robert Corbin, has once more been designated Congress Director, with over-all responsibility for the entire pre and post-congress programming.

Party Treasurer, Cde Hyacinth Godett, working in collaboration with Central Committee member, Cde Seeram Prashad and Executive Secretary for Administration and Finance, Cde Leslie Dundas, is responsible for all documentation in relation to the Finance Committee. This includes preparing the budget for the congress.

Cde Oscar Clarke will once more co-ordinate the questions and motions to congress which is part of the programme of the Documentation Committee. Executive Secretary, Education and Research, Cde Norma Younge, will assume responsibility for compiling the programme and other congress documents while Central Committee member, Cde Elvin Mc David, will be responsible for documenting such materials as the presentation by the Comrade Leader and the reports coming out of the commissions.

Security is the responsibility of Home Affairs Minister, Cde Jeffrey Thomas, while Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of National Development, Cde Emerson Simon, is responsible for the physical arrangement at the congress venue. His job also includes organising the biennial national exhibition which runs for approximately eight days.

Minister Responsible for Information and Public Service, Cde Yvonne Harewood-Benn, is in charge of all publicity relating to the congress and she is to be assisted by Chief Information Officer, Cde Allan Fenty, and New Nation Editor, Cde Adam Harris.

Mobilisation, registration and the post congress rally become the duty of Central Committee member, Cde Gowkarran Sharma, who will be assisted by Cde Joseph Drakes.

Central Committee member, Cde Malcolm Parris, will be responsible for the overseas delegation to congress. Cde Ronald Benn is to spearhead the Day of Work Committee and Cde Deryck Cummings is to be responsible for the preparation of promotional aids for the congress.

The Congress Committee meets again on May 21 by which time the days and duration of Congress will be announced.

Council Discussions

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 10 Apr 84 pp 1, 8

[Text]

THE General Council of the ruling People's National Congress has identified four key areas upon which the resourcefulness of the Guyanese people must be brought to bear, in keeping with efforts at national economic recovery.

With the assistance of senior officials from the public sector, the General Council members identified as imperative the need for

taking action on the shortage and the continuing loss of skills.

They also identified as urgent the need for greater resourcefulness in dealing with the shortages of bags—jute bags in particular—the shortage of spare parts and the shortage of imported fertilisers.

Heads of Government Corporations, Ministries and

departments spent all Saturday discussing the problems at their respective agencies and outlining the non-traditional initiatives they take to solve them.

Towards the end of the exercise, it was decided that Cde Haslyn Parris, Chairman of the Board of the State Planning Commission, will co-ordinate activities intended to deal with the key issues identified.

During the discussions, an array of reasons, ranging from reluctance to accept the challenges of development to people's perception that things are better elsewhere, were advanced for the current shortage of skills.

Wrapping up the discussions, however, Party Leader, President Forbes Burnham, cautioned against "baying at the Moon."

He noted that all countries seeking, like Guyana, to effect socio-economic transformation, have had to cope with the problem of loss of skilled personnel. Many of those who migrate, he pointed out, have not been able to cast off the effects of centuries of colonialism and are unwilling to accept the rate at which they are expected to work.

Those who believe in what is being done will stay; those who do not believe would run, he contended.

This problem of loss of skills was not peculiar to countries like Guyana. Even Britain complains about the loss of skills to North America and Australia.

"Every revolution has its

heroes and every revolution has its casualties—those who seek to escape and those who form the generation of sacrifice," Cde Burnham explained.

Guyana, he said, will have to rely on a programme of orientation and education and on the next generation.

More emphasis, he added, must be placed on the non-academic aspects of education for producing rounded citizens who understand the nature of the national thrust and the nature of the struggle.

Dealing with the shortage of jute bags for agricultural produce, the General Council meeting decided that the Institute of Applied Science and Technology (IAST) should embark upon a programme to promote the utilisation of local fibres for the production of bags.

Among the plants identified for possible consideration by the IAST are the banana, the plantain, the coconut and the moca moca.

However, Cde Burnham has strongly recommended that, in the interim, serious consideration be given to the construction of bulk containers for transporting paddy and legumes.

On the question of the shortage of spare parts, Cde Burnham stressed that a national effort was needed to deal with this problem.

He noted that several workshop facilities in different parts of the country—including the Coldingen and MARDS workshops—were terribly under-utilised.

He emphasised that there was need for the Chief

Planner to bring together the several entities, including GNEC and Guymine, and devise a programme for the making of spare parts locally.

"We may find that we are more skilled than we think we are," he said.

The President suggested that managers should make greater use of the students who graduate each year from the nation's technical training institutions.

They should also give serious thought to sponsoring students at these institutions and to identifying outstanding students even before they graduate.

Suggestions for dealing with the shortage of imported fertilisers concentrated mainly on making greater use of organic fertilisers, including the droppings from poultry and livestock, and human excreta.

At the core of the discussions, which focused on the need for a greater manifestation of resourcefulness, were the shortage of foreign exchange and the need for Guyanese to use the current crisis to their advantage.

As the Party's General Secretary, Prime Minister Ptolemy Reid, pointed out during one of his interventions, the current crisis must be seen as a blessing in disguise for Guyana.

In keeping with this theme President Burnham advised that Guyanese should light candles rather than curse the darkness.

REGIONALIZATION OF HEALTH, EDUCATION MINISTRIES UNDER WAY

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 6 Apr 84 p 8

[Text] DISCUSSIONS are taking place to regionalise the Ministries of Health and Education in order to continue the process of regionalisation, which has already been initiated in a number of other ministries.

This was reported by Regional Development official Leslie Jekir who noted that the system of Local Government in Guyana is being further developed with the establishment of People's Co-operative Units.

Speaking to students and teachers of the Cyril Potter College of Education during a national policy session yesterday, Jekir said the new system of Local Government seeks to involve the people, through the devolution of powers.

The programme was organised by the Higher Education Division of the Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture.

Also contributing to the session was Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Regional Development, Cde. Stanley Hamilton who answered a number of searching questions posed by students.

In response to a question about certain irregularities within the Local Government System, Cde. Hamilton said that while he is not denying certain problems referred to, the new system is intended to seek solutions to those very problem.

However, there must be a positive attitudinal change in people, an area in which the students can play a meaningful role, he stressed.

He explained that the new local democratic machinery would necessitate that bureaucrats account to the people.

Jekir also said that the role of People's Co-operative Units would involve particularly mobilisation and supervision.

Also present at the session was Cde. Waveney Bowen of the Higher Education Division.

GUYSUCO ADDRESSES SPARE PARTS, PERSONNEL SHORTAGE PROBLEMS

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 15 Apr 84 p 8

[Text] Declining production, a shortage of spares, heavy loss of manpower and factory down-time are some of the major problems that the Guyana Sugar Corporation will seek to solve this year, Guysuco's Chairman, Cde Harold Davis, reported to General Council last week.

Commenting on the loss of manpower, Cde Davis said his corporation lost 223 junior staff employees and 33 senior staff members over the last two years. In addition, some employees are asking for early retirement, he added.

As a result, on-the-job training is a leading priority and this programme is to be intensified, Cde Davis said. To this end the facilities at the Apprenticeship Training School have been extended and there has been the rehabilitation of the Management Training Centre, he added.

Guysuco's other objectives include returning the industry to profitability, and aid national food self-sufficiency through its diversification programme, he said.

Cde Davis reported that the immediate aim of the corporation is to achieve an annual production target of 300 000 tonnes, eventually stabilising at 350 000 tonnes in the long term.

Aquaculture, the profitable venture currently pursued by Guysuco will continue to attract a lot of attention within the corporation. Recently, Central Committee member and Vice President, Cde Desmond Hoyte, commissioned a fish hatchery from which farmers will be able to purchase fingerlings.

Cde Davis reported that rice cultivation has been successful to a lesser extent and Guysuco is also making a valuable contribution to the legume programme.

But crop cultivation is not Guysuco's only contribution to the national recovery programme. The corporation is also involved in the energy conservation programme.

It commissioned a begasse bailer to provide electricity for one of its East Berbice sugar estates. And recently Guysuco held discussions with the Guyana National Energy Authority in connection with designing machinery that will supplement the volume of electricity on the national grid.

As Cde Davis noted Guysuco is continuing to highlight the extent of local skills especially in the light of the fact that the organisation has been operating with equipment as old as 33 years.

CSO: 3298/801

AGRICULTURAL OFFICIAL KENNARD HEADS GRB REVAMPING

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 16 Mar 84 p 8

[Text] AGRICULTURAL Adviser to the President, Cde. Gavin Kennard has been named chairman of the co-ordinating committee for the restructuring of the Guyana Rice Board.

Cde. Kennard, a former chairman of the Board, met Regional Managers and Divisional Heads of the GRB Wednesday and brought them up to date with the restructuring programme.

General Manager Leon Dundas, present at the Wednesday meeting, disclosed that assets are now being allocated to the four new entities which will replace the GRB.

Legislation is to be drafted shortly to provide for the setting up of the new establishments and a May 1 deadline has been set for the actual formation of the new units.

The GRB is to be divided into four independent entities, namely the Guyana Rice Export Board (GREB), the Guyana Rice Milling Authority (GRMA), the Guyana Rice Grading Centre (GRGC), and the National Rice Research Centre (NRRC).

The GREB will be solely responsible for the export of rice, the GRMA for milling, the GRGC for grading of paddy and rice exclusively and the NRRC for rice research, an area which is considered one of the most important in the industry.

The restructuring programme is aimed at taking full advantage of the expected substantial increase in yields as farmers begin to make more use of the Mahaica-Mahaicony-Abary [MMA] and Tapakuma Irrigation Schemes.

The GRB, during 1982, handed over the responsibility for the sale of fertilisers, the ploughing of farmers' lands and harvesting to the Guyana National Trading Corporation (GNTC) and the Regional Administrations.

This decision, it was explained, was taken to put the GRB in a better position to concentrate on the milling and exporting of rice.

BAUXITE SUPERVISORS UNION ELECTS OFFICERS, HOLDS TALKS

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 14 Mar 84 p 4

[Text] THE election of a new executive committee, last Saturday evening, brought the curtains down on the second biennial delegates conference of the Guyana Bauxite Supervisors' Union [GBSU] held over two days at the union's headquarters.

A surprise last minute withdrawal by Acting President Hubert Harry, cleared the way for Principal Assistant General Secretary, Lennox Simon, the only other contender, to become the new President of the union.

Harry, as the First Vice-President, had taken the Presidential seat following the resignation of Gordon Griffith late last year.

Other new officers elected include, Luther Phillips of Everton and Bidco's Randolph Blair as First and Second Vice-Presidents respectively. The new Principal Assistant General Secretary is Charles Sampson.

William Phang pipped Prince Wilson for the post of Research and Organising Secretary.

General Secretary Lincoln Lewis and Treasurer Emile Adams were both returned to office unopposed. GMWU's Christopher James conducted the installation ceremony.

The conference began on Friday afternoon. The opening ceremony was attended by Government and Guymine officials as well as leaders of other trade unions. It reconvened on Saturday with delegates representing branches of the union from the different bauxite communities working into late evening.

A number of motions relating to the housing situation in the bauxite communities, shortage of basic commodities, the re-instatement of retrenched union officials and benefits for workers were discussed.

Eight members of the union received Certificates of Commendation, for outstanding performances over the last two years.

Among those conferred with honorary membership was retired trade unionist Winston Verbeke who was hailed as the "father of the trade union movement within the bauxite industry."

BRIEFS

LABOR UNION RECOGNITION--THE Guyana Labour Union has signed an agreement with Plywood Industries to be the sole bargaining agents for the workers, CDE. STANTON CRITCHLOW, General Secretary of the union reported Wednesday. During last week the workers went on strike to back demands for the recognition of the GLU as their sole bargaining agents. Cde. Critchlow said discussions will continue at a later date about recognition of the union as representative of the workers engaged at Kisson's Furniture and Foam Factory, Park Hotel, and the Canning Factory. Cde. Khem Kisson, signed for the Plywood Industries, while Cde. Critchlow, Carville Duncan and R. Hunte, signed for the union. The agreement was countersigned by Cde. Majeed, Deputy Chief Labour Officer. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 16 Mar 84 p 8]

REGION 2 PRODUCTION UNIT--THE Committee responsible for production in Region Two is to be re-organised. This decision was taken by the Regional Democratic Council at its last statutory meeting. The decision followed the presentation of a report by Councillor Joseph Harrop, who heads the Regional Production Committee. In his report, Cde. Harrop stated that some members were not attending meetings thus making it impossible for his Committee to function. He suggested that new members be drafted into the Committee to replace those who were not functioning. The Councillor stressed the importance of this Committee in view of the current trend of falling production within the Region. Cde. Harrop was mandated by the R.D.C. to re-organise the Committee and present proposals to the next statutory meeting for approval. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 5 Apr 84 p 5]

BUILDING COSTS--Executives of two leading mortgage agencies have said that the sharp increase in the price of building materials has forced many people to abandon their plans to erect new buildings and to purchase existing ones. The acting Manager of the Guyana Co-operative Mortgage Finance Bank, Cde Edward Richmond, said that within recent months the cost of building has jumped by about 30 per cent. In addition, because of the problems people are experiencing in purchasing certain building materials, the tendency is for them to purchase existing buildings rather than build new ones. The New Building Society, which has a long record of financing building construction through mortgages, has also noted the effect of spiralling building costs. Cde Jules De Cambra, Director-Secretary of the NBS, said that during the past months there has been "little business" in terms of "erecting of buildings." But, he added, there has been a "lot of business" with respect to people "transferring

buildings to new owners." Meanwhile, sales personnel at some sawmills have blamed increased operational costs, scarcity of spare parts and the devaluation of the Guyana dollar for the recent price hike in lumber. The increase ranges between 25 and 100 per cent. [Excerpts] [Georgetown GUAYAN CHRONICLE in English 9 Apr 84 p 3]

GUYSTAC LEADERSHIP--CDE ROY MC ARTHUR has been named the temporary replacement for Cde. David Yankana, the Executive Vice-President of Guystac who has gone on pre-retirement leave, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning announced yesterday. A statement from the Ministry also indicated that this temporary arrangement will be for two months at the end of which the regrouping of corporations within the Guystac Group will take effect. Cde. Yankana is on four months pre-retirement leave with effect from April 1, 1984. Hitherto, Cde Mc Arthur served as Guystac's Vice-President (Administration). Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, Carl Greenidge, had indicated in his budget speech earlier this year that the corporations within the Guystac Group are due to be restructured following the report by an advisory group. The statement added: "Whilst the final stages of this restructuring are being undertaken, a temporary replacement for Cde. Yankana has been announced by the Government for the next two months. Cde R. McArthur ... will carry out the functions formerly performed by Cde Yankana. When the exercise of restructuring is completed, the establishment of the new regrouped corporations will take effect." [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 5 Apr 84 p 1]

PEOPLES COURTS--MINISTER in the Ministry of Agriculture, Cde Sallahuddin, announced last week-end that "People's Courts" will soon be established to deal with cases of predial larceny. Addressing a face-the-community meeting at Ithaca Government School, the Minister said predial larceny is the greatest cause for worry in the agricultural sector. In response to an observation about an apparent lack of communication between the Local Authority in the area and the Regional Democratic Council, the Minister said he will recommend that a system be set up to bring the Regional Organs of Local Democracy closer together. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 5 Apr 84 p 1]

CSO: 3298/802

CRT HEAD COMPLAINS OF PRI LEADERSHIP INACCESSIBILITY

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 11 Apr 84 p 33-A

[Text] The PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] only deals with top organizations like the CTM [Confederation of Mexican Workers]. "It has not even let us have access to its president, Adolfo Lugo Verduzco, in order to present our points of view," stated Mario Suarez, secretary general of the CRT [Revolutionary Confederation of Workers]. He added: "If they do not want us in the PRI, they should say so."

He also called it "absurd arrogance" when Fidel Velazquez spoke of paralyzing the country if the reactionaries reach power. "No organization, no matter how powerful, can bring this country to a halt. It would also be necessary to evaluate the situation because Fidel Velazquez cannot commit the workers by himself."

The leader of the CRT--a labor organization affiliated with the Labor Congress--stated that it would be an injustice and a historic error to claim that Gen Plutarco Elias Calles wanted a single party in Mexico. When he founded the National Revolutionary Party, now the PRI, he did not have the idea of forming one single party but of uniting the revolutionary groups.

He added that the PRI itself has advocated the formation of other parties. If these have not progressed, it is due to their superficial actions, their lack of leaders or their "movements" which do not consider the problems of the country as a whole.

Suarez is one of those who frequently disagrees with Fidel Velazquez in the Labor Congress. He made these statements when asked yesterday about preparations for the 13th National Assembly of the PRI and the threats by Fidel Velazquez, CTM secretary general, to paralyze the country if the reactionaries reach power.

Suarez explained: "The PRI is taking the wrong road if it thinks that it will solve the problems dealing only with the top organizations."

He stated that there are marginal groups in each one of the three PRI sectors which contradicts the objectives of internal democratization.

He noted that one example of this was the nomination last Monday of Guillermo Cosío Vidaurre as candidate for the presidency of the PRI Executive Committee in the Federal District. About 100 delegates who were chosen by the secretary of labor action, part of the CTM, attended the assembly. "They did not invite us. We learned about it through the newspapers."

He stated: "If we are not permitted to be part of the party, we will just wait because our revolutionary convictions do not permit us to take any other measure."

With respect to Velázquez' statements, he revealed: "Fidel will say whatever he wants." However, the political reform was not just a temporary solution; it was a reality which arose from the need for political life to spread. If the opposition parties do not respond, that is their problem. "However, the PRI must democratize itself because one labor organization, even a majority one, does not represent all the other organizations in the sector."

7717

CSO: 3248/ 605

MADERO: CANALES CLARIOND IS PAN N.L. GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATE

Monterrey EL NORTE in Spanish 13 Apr 84 p 1-B

[Text] The National Executive Committee of the PAN [National Action Party] agreed in Mexico that Fernando Canales Clariond is the right nominee for governor of Nuevo Leon, according to Pablo Emilio Madero Belden, national PAN leader, yesterday.

He called Canales Clariond knowledgeable about state problems.

The president of the National Executive Committee added that the official party "already hears footsteps." He called the statements by Fidel Velazquez, national leader of the CTM [Confederation of Mexican Workers], when he announced that "if the opposition wins, we will paralyze Mexico" a symptom of the weakness of the system.

Madero explained that the PAN is determined that democracy which is now absent in the government election processes will reign.

He stated: "We are fighting seriously to reach power, not with the desire for personal or party satisfaction but because Mexico needs a change. This will be decided by the democratic will of the people."

With respect to the coming state elections, Madero said that the PAN has worked hard to give Nuevo Leon a candidate who is aware of the situation in the state. Canales Clariond has those characteristics.

He commented that in past elections, he received telephone calls from PAN sympathizers complaining that, at their jobs and unions, they had been forced to vote up to three times for the official party. This went against their will.

Madero said that the people of Nuevo Leon are prepared to prevent election frauds because there is a democratic awareness. The will of the people will be expressed in the vote.

He said: "If there are election frauds, the party loses but the people suffer the impact of the outrage and resent it."

He stated that the PAN is strong in Nuevo Leon as well as in other states where frauds have been committed to give the PRI the victory. Its members are honest people who act on conviction and not on interests.

Madero said that Fidel Velazquez' warnings that he would paralyze the country if the opposition won are a sign of weakness "since they already hear footsteps."

The leader emphasized: "It is incredible that he would say such a thing since it incites to violence, not against the parties but against the will of all the people in the country."

Madero asked: "Who is he to go against the decision of the Mexicans who want to vote for a candidate from another party?"

He said that those warnings are dangerous to sovereignty since once violence is unleashed, it is very difficult to achieve peace. It only takes one drop to make the glass overflow.

Rejects Card

Madero Belden said that the identification card announced by the Secretariat of Government constitutes interference in the Mexicans' private life. It will be used by the government as a control mechanism.

He stated that, due to the number of election frauds recorded, the PAN proposed several years ago that a card with a photograph be used so that each registered voter only voted once.

"The best use of this card could be in elections since, in that way, we can prevent frauds. Obviously, they do not want to use this document for this because there is already a voter card that does not have a photograph and is easy to obtain."

Madero said that when the card was proposed, the Secretariat of Government noted that this card would not be used for voting.

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CSO: 3248/605

PAN LEADER CHALLENGES PLAN FOR NICARAGUAN OIL PAYMENTS

Monterrey EL NORTE in Spanish 13 Apr 84 p 5-A

[Commentary by Pablo E. Madero: "If They Do Not Pay, We Are Not Sending Any More Oil"]

[Text] For several years as part of the San Jose agreement, Mexico has been shipping 7,500 barrels of oil a day to Nicaragua. For 5 years, Nicaragua was granted a credit of 30 percent of the value of the invoice at an interest rate of 4 percent. As of July 1983, the credit was reduced to 20 percent of the value of the invoice with a term of 10 years /interest free/ [in boldface]. The press information does not say anything about moratorium interest in case the credits are not paid when due nor about the maximum amount of the line of credit.

What does all this effort Mexico has made to help a country that has become an exporter of violence mean? How much do they owe us for this already? How are they going to pay us? At first glance, the volume of crude oil exports does not seem very high.

Apparently Nicaragua has not paid anything since almost 6 years ago when the program of crude oil sales began. Therefore, the total of the pending invoices based on an average price of \$29 per barrel for 5 years and 8 months reaches the enormous sum of \$444 million or its equivalent in pesos, 78 billion pesos.

If we also calculate a charge for moratorium interest at a rate of 12 percent equal to the basic interest Mexico pays to international banking, the total debt would reach \$561 million or 98 billion pesos. This is already a large amount.

It is upsetting that Nicaragua has not paid its commitments to Mexico. It is still more worrisome that Mexican authorities continue shipping oil to a country that has not paid its bills.

According to the San Jose Pact, we granted credit for 30 percent of the value of the shipments for 5 years with an interest rate of only 4 percent. This represented aid or a donation equivalent to \$23.5 million (the difference between the 12 percent that Mexico pays its creditors). Added to the interest-free financing of 20 percent of the shipments beginning in 1983, this represents a total of \$27.65 million or 4.839 billion pesos which is no small amount.

It is one thing to sell at a cheap price; it is very different not to collect anything. How are we going to recover the 98 billion pesos they owe us?

Recently news of a negotiated agreement between Mexico and Nicaragua appeared in the newspapers of this capital. It stipulates that the Central American country must ship a number of manufactured products to pay up its account.

It mentions "as part of a program of imports permitted by SECOFIN [Secretariat of Commerce and Industrial Development] so that Nicaragua can reduce its debt to Mexico" the shipment to our country of 15.5 million tiles, 8,000 toilets and 6,000 bathroom sinks. This is absurd because these are products we do not need.

The fact is that the internal demand in our country has gone down because of the crisis in the construction industry. For that reason, the eight Mexican factories that produce these materials are working at 30 percent below capacity and it may go down even more.

Therefore, there is growing unemployment in this industrial branch. Now the problem will be aggravated by the government acquiring these products from Nicaragua "as part of a program."

What will they buy then? What other industrial branch will be affected to help this Central American country? What prices are they paying for the product and under what conditions?

In view of the weakness of the Mexican negotiators, it is urgent to learn the other conditions agreed on. It could be that Mexico has agreed to pay 80 percent of the value of these products and only 20 percent would go to pay for the oil. This would multiply the amount we would have to buy of products we don't need by five. In this case, we would be talking about scandalous figures that would have very negative effects on the national economy.

The appropriate authorities must report in detail on this matter, including a complete list of products negotiated and the volumes and unit prices agreed on so that the branches involved can determine the extent of the damage the program would cause.

Also oil sales to Haiti were suspended since it was proven that it sent the Mexican crude oil to "spot" markets in Europe. Sales to a country that does not pay all its debts should also be suspended.

To calmly continue with shipments to clients who have demonstrated that they are poor risks is an invitation to good payers to become delinquent.

7717

CSO: 3248/605

CHIAPAS: EJIDO PEASANTS TRY TO DISPLACE SIMOJOVEL INDIANS

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 13 Apr 84 p 25-A

[Text] Luciano Rosales, assistant State public prosecutor, asserted that peasants of the Otolchen ejido and La Pimienta, stirred up by leaders of the Ayala Plan National Coordinator and the PSUM [United Socialist Party of Mexico], Sebastian Perez Nunez, Enrique Lopez Ruiz and Luis Perez Vazquez, yesterday faced the group of Indians from Las Palmas, from the Simojovel municipality, whom they tried to despoil of their lands in a premeditated invasion.

The public official explained that in the action the peasants Juan Lopez Hernandez and Fernando Sanchez Gonzalez were killed by shots from rifles they call fowling pieces [garceras]. In the scuffle, several persons were struck, among them three State Public Safety agents.

A day before the events, ejido members from Las Palmas noticed that peasants from Otolchen and La Pimienta were being stirred up by loudspeakers to invade Las Palmas lands.

A group of the latter applied for the intervention of State Public Security agents assigned to Simojovel, in order to avoid a clash. Mr Rosales said that when the agents made their way to Las Palmas ejido to answer the call of the complainants, another group of peasants from Otolchen and La Pimienta ambushed the agents, who had to use tear gas to disperse them. Three detectives were struck, the official said.

Luciano Rosales, who heads the corresponding investigations, indicated that the bullet wounds sustained by the dead peasants were made by shotgun or rifle fire and that it is presumed that they were wounded by the peasants themselves, but it still has not been determined which group did it.

Nonetheless it came out that the leaders--Sebastian Perez Nunez, Enrique Lopez Ruiz and Luis Lopez Vazquez--had been preparing this invasion for 2 weeks, for the occasion of the 65th anniversary of Emiliano Zapata, to whom the government authorities paid their respects the day before yesterday.

BRIEFS

STUNAM LEADER'S POLITICAL PLANS--After calling the PSUM [United Socialist Party of Mexico] "an elitist party that only has visibility at the universities and institutes of higher education," the leader of the STUNAM [Trade Union of the National Autonomous University of Mexico], Evaristo Perez Arreola, announced that in the December elections, he will seek to be mayor of this locality, of which he is a native. He explained that this is why he will seek the candidacy of a coalition of leftist parties called Democratic Unity and explained that 3 years ago he participated in the elections to municipal chairman on the PSUM ticket and lost owing to "the open, shameless meddling of the CIA and the FBI, who ordered the U.S. Emigration authorities to have their provisional detention monkeys pick up all our colleagues." Now, he said, everything will be different, because the population "has grown sick and tired of bad municipal bosses." Perez Arreola denied he owns properties here in Ciudad Acuna and in the nearby town of Del Rio, Texas, and gave assurances that "all those properties belong to my brothers." [Article by Joaquin Rosales] [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 19 Apr 84 p 21-A] 12448

CSO: 3248/613

COSEP'S GURDIAN SAYS ANOTHER CUBA NO LONGER POSSIBLE

San Jose LA NACION INTERNACIONAL in Spanish 12-18 Apr 84 pp 14-15

[Interview with Ramiro Gurdian, vice-president of the Higher Council of Private Enterprise and president of the Agricultural and Livestock Producers Union of Nicaragua; date and place not specified]

[Text] The possibility of Nicaragua's becoming another Cuba was precluded by the Central American country's entrepreneurial leader, Ramiro Gurdian, who claimed that the danger of this happening, which had arisen during the first years of the revolution, has by now passed.

Vice-president of the Higher Council of Private Enterprise (CESEP) and president of the Agricultural Producers Union of Nicaragua (UPANIC), the most important Nicaraguan entrepreneurial groups, Gurdian, in an extensive interview with LA NACION INTERNACIONAL, said that what the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) is seeking now is to perpetuate itself in power, just as the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) of Mexico has.

Gurdian remarked, among other things, that there is no freedom in his nation for private enterprise, that there is no law on investments and that the Sandinists have refused to define what they interpret to be a mixed economy.

The businessman also commented on the calling of elections, accusing FSLN directly of boycotting the process of democratization for which the Nicaraguan people are longing. In addition, he scored the abuses committed against the leaders of the sector, claiming that the only satisfaction remaining for business owners is that of being inside Nicaragua.

He expressed the view that FSLN would fall, for better or for worse, claiming that if there are no free elections, there will be war. Gurdian reiterated the request made by the businessmen, parties and labor federations that a national dialog be held for the purpose of finding a means for halting the battle.

[Question] Under what conditions is Nicaraguan private enterprise operating, and what is the frame of reference in which it is acting at present?

[Answer] Unfortunately, there is no legal context in which private enterprise can act. What is good today, will be bad tomorrow. For example, the Sandinists have established retroactive laws, and what was not penalized in the past is being immediately punished by them. I think that the most serious problem confronting Nicaraguan businessmen is the lack of clearcut rules.

To date, the rulers have refused to define what they interpret as a mixed economy. I have told the FSLN members that this system exists in Russia, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, and Costa Rica; in other words, everywhere.

For example, in Nicaragua there is no foreign investment law, something that we have been demanding for a long time, so as to try to convince foreign businessmen or companies to become established in the country. Three years ago, a Mexican delegation arrived, and the member of the Government Junta, Sergio Ramirez Mercado, told them that the legislation for this would be ready in 3 months, something that has not happened yet.

Even in Cuba there are regulations on foreign investment, which were approved last year. Therefore, it is strange that the Sandinists are not concerned about guaranteeing that investors and producers will not lose their assets.

[Question] How is agriculture actually operating, and what opportunities for agricultural development do the business owners have?

[Answer] I have said that the private sector, not only in agriculture, but in general, is a myth; because the only thing private about it is that it is deprived of freedom. The government says what must be planted; and if one does the opposite, they confiscate the land. They also set the workers' wages, regulate the purchase and sale prices and establish the financing. Furthermore, they tell the businessman at which price they will purchase the crop, not without warning first that they (the Sandinists) are the only buyers. Under these circumstances, the businessman cannot make any decision.

The Sandinists pretend to support the private sector, and they publish this internationally. They claim to be financing us, but that means nothing; because when a businessman goes to invest, the last thing he is seeking is financing, since he must first make the necessary studies (on feasibility), and other areas that are more important.

[Question] Under these conditions, how do you explain the fact that private enterprise has survived?

[Answer] Private enterprise does not exist; it is a myth in Nicaragua. The only thing we have gained, something that I consider very important, is not having allowed communism to progress. That is a political position held by the sector, from the standpoint that COSEP has carried out an important endeavor in that area.

Those who are still the owners of some means of production have to work according to the ground rules imposed by FSLN, as holds true in the agricultural and

livestock sector. The government sets the wages and one cannot pay more than that, because if he does, then they claim that he is decapitalizing the enterprise or manipulating the workers.

COSEP has gained a prestigious international reputation in this battle, which means a great deal to us. This has forced the government to consider what it is doing to us very carefully.

In the past, the president of UPANIC, Jorge Salazar, died at the hands of the state security. All of us other presidents of chambers have been in prison, whether or not we were sentenced.

When I enter or leave the country, they are constantly holding me and interrogating me. For example, once when I was returning from Venezuela, they held me at the airport for 8 hours.

[Question] What percentage of profitability do the Nicaraguan businessmen have?

[Answer] Profitability is an interesting word. The notion of profitability that is held internationally does not exist in Nicaragua, because it no longer applies. It is true that one can earn cordobas (the national currency), but one cannot do anything at all with that money. There are companies which earn many cordobas, but they cannot purchase raw material, spare parts or equipment. One cannot do anything with that money, and the business owners keep it; and it is rotting.

Nor is it possible to purchase real estate, because that type of transaction has to be approved by the government. Everything is controlled.

[Question] This being the case, what are the benefits of private enterprise in Nicaragua?

[Answer] The benefit that we have is that we are in Nicaragua, and we shall not lose that. It is a patriotic benefit, not a political one. We consider Nicaragua to be more important than all our business, and that is why we are fighting. It is a hard battle, but we think that we are going to win it.

We are sure that in Nicaragua, for example, it would be impossible to have a Cuba. It could not occur, because the time has already elapsed, the danger has already passed. I think that, for the transformation to occur, it would have had to happen during the first 2 or 3 years of the Sandinist revolution.

Now the entire world has lost the romanticism that it had about the revolution. These gentlemen (the Sandinists) have by now become projected internationally as Marxist-Leninists; and therefore the whole world is on to them. With this situation, it is too late for the rulers to make the decision to establish the Cuban model.

The economic problems that my country is undergoing are difficult, and they realize that neither Cuba nor Russia is going to finance that endeavor for

them. That is why we are now observing them following after Germany and other nations of the Western bloc, in an attempt to procure credit and things of that sort. Most of the European countries have promised assistance, but based on the presence of democracy.

[Question] If the Cuban model could not be established in Nicaragua, what do you think it might be?

[Answer] I think that the Front wants a Mexican-type government with an Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI). They want to make use of a revolution to keep FSLN in power, just as the PRI has. I think that the Sandinists are heading toward that same goal; the only problem that they have is that the Mexican revolution was for the Mexicans, but they have never gone about meddling in the problems of their neighbors.

With these intentions, the Sandinists would clash with international credibility. To them, the ideal would be a type of government like the PRI, because they realize that they can no longer carry out their process.

I believe that the problem that Nicaragua would have with a PRI-type system, apart from the lack of international support, would be the internal complications; because we Nicaraguans would not agree to let a party take power in order to keep it as many years as it wanted, because that was not the struggle which was carried out, nor is that what the original government program devised under the revolution states.

What we want for Nicaragua is what is written in the initial plan, because that is what we all wanted when we joined together to overthrow the Somoza dictatorship.

In that document, mention is made of freedom of the press, respect for religion and for trade unions and the free existence of private enterprise; in other words, features which prevail in a democratic system. However, that is not what the present rulers are doing.

[Question] You claim that the Sandinists are interested in a PRI-style system, but that is not what will prevail; because what will be imposed in the end is the will of the democratic sectors.

[Answer] It is not just one thing that will make them give in; in other words, the Sandinists will have to find out that the international community is no longer on their side.

The internal economic problem is serious; they are not obtaining financing; they have military and political pressure; the people's dissatisfaction is growing ever day; the food shortage is worsening; in other words, it is difficult for them to remain in power amid such conditions. I am inclined to think that FSLN will fall, for better or for worse; but it will go.

[Question] Under what conditions is the government seeking to have the opposition or private enterprise back the calling of elections?

[Answer] In the document that we submitted last December (signed by the political parties, labor confederations and six chambers comprising COSEP), we said what had to be done, and one of the things that we requested was the separation of the state and party.

There is also a compulsory military service law, and hence from now on youths 17 years of age have to sign up, even if they don't want to. The Army chief, Humberto Ortega, tells the troops that learning to fight is a useful thing and that what they should have is a Sandinist political consciousness.

There must be a separation between the state and party and all the military corps, with the elimination of the Sandinist Defense Committees (CDS), which are responsible for distributing the coupons for food purchases.

A party which controls the citizens' activities in this way will have an influence on making everything made easy for it in elections.

We would lose the repeal of laws which violate human rights, the suspension of the state of emergency and the promulgation of an amnesty law.

We are aware of the fact that any person who has committed an atrocious crime in the past will not return to Nicaragua, even if an amnesty law were to exist, and if he did return, we would try him. (Gurdian gave the example of Anastasio Somoza Portocarrero, son of Somoza Garcia, known as "El Chiguin".)

We insist on the amnesty, because there are people who have been jailed for 5 years, and among them there are many members of the defunct National Guard who were forced to join it 2 or 3 months before the revolution's victory. Most of them are peasants. If we succeed in having that legislation passed, many people who are rebelling in arms would put them down to return. It is a way of seeking peace.

Many arrangements that we may make internally will have no effect if there is no consideration for those who are fighting. We must seek a political solution in order to stop the war.

Freedom of religion and labor unions, and separation of powers are other guarantees that must be given so as to start the process of democratization. The government's original program must be converted into a Constitution, so that if the Sandinists order measures which violate the Constitution, an appeal for protection can be filed.

It is also important that all these conditions end in a national dialog, wherein the electoral law is discussed. In the original government program, it was stated that elections would be called for a Constituent Assembly, and not for president and vice-president, as the Sandinists want now.

Unfortunately, the Junta has not fulfilled any of these requests. There are internal and external pressures for having this occur; because it is the only means of reaching democracy.

[Question] But what will happen if the Front does not do this, and heads toward elections as it has scheduled them?

[Answer] First, it must be realized that they are not calling elections because they want to; that is a lie. Even though they claim that they had elections in mind from the time of the original plan, I think that they are doing this because of political circumstances and the pressure that they are receiving every day.

Hence, they feel obligated to call elections, but they are making sure beforehand of creating the necessary conditions for emerging victorious themselves. Somoza did the same thing; he arranged the laws exactly as he wanted, so as to make sure of winning.

The Sandinists have to hold elections in order to project themselves as democrats; while at the same time they don't want to lose power, and they realize that if there are free elections, they would lose. What will happen is that when the whole world sees that they are not what they should be, it will continue to pressure until this occurs.

[Question] So do you think that, if it is not in November, there will have to be a time when the Sandinists retreat?

[Answer] I am convinced that FSLN has no other solution: either there are free elections in Nicaragua, or there will be war.

The possibility of a war against other countries, or an increase in military activity on the part of the anti-Sandinist groups, is a very dangerous issue. Anything that any of the groups may do would immediately trigger a battle.

It is a delicate situation, and must be treated with a great deal of maturity. Our internal position is one of seeking peace and finding a means that will stop the war.

They claim that the United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) is financing the anti-Sandinists, but it is also public knowledge that Russia and Cuba are backing the FSLN. We have two factions of fellow countrymen fighting, and those who die are Nicaraguans; I don't see any Americans, Cubans or Russians dying. The truth is that the two powers are supplying the weapons, and we are supplying the dead, most of them peasants; and that is what grieves me most.

[Question] Could the time come when the two positions clash and something else occurs which might not necessarily be the path to democracy?

[Answer] The fact is that the United States' position regarding Nicaragua is based on geopolitics. A dialog has been started between the Sandinists and the United States Government, based on mutual accusations invoking "non-aggression" pacts and similar things.

What I am certain of is that the United States would not dare do anything against Nicaragua if a democracy existed. I think that the conditions necessary for attaining this type of government do exist; the problem is that this solution is not accepted by the Sandinists.

The private sector made an appeal for a freeze on the elections, asking that they not be held until the proper conditions were present. We think that it is the FSLN that is boycotting a free process; we want them this way, and we are fighting for them.

[Question] What is your opinion of Virgilio Godoy's position, in connection with the Independent Liberal Party (PLI), of leaving the Patriotic Front and putting up some type of opposition? Do you think that his position is authentic or rather that it is based on what they call "zancudismo" (collaborationism) in Nicaragua?

[Answer] To me, any political party that is saying it will take part in the elections called by FSLN is actually a "zancudo" (collaborationist).

If Dr Virgilio Godoy lends himself to this type of maneuver, that adjective that we use in Nicaragua befits him. I sincerely respect him, but I have noticed during all this period that he has been on the side of the government and that now he is turning out to be a "zancudo."

Now if Dr Godoy demands freedom of the press and separation of the state and party, in short, that there be freedom, I would applaud him; but if he continues with the idea of participating in the elections, I resent what he is doing.

[Question] What do the people think about this entire situation? Do you believe that they will participate in elections under these circumstances?

[Answer] They will not participate in elections. We are doing things well planned, and the document that we have publicized not only contains the ideas of COSEP, but also takes into account the political parties, the labor federations, the private sector and small producers.

The people demand free elections and they are tired of the FSLN. The Nicaraguans are weary of having to fight in order to obtain food, and suffering more want every day. Never before has a similar situation occurred, and the citizens know who is to blame.

2909

CSO: 3248/610

LABOR MINISTRY WARNS AGAINST INFLATIONARY WAGE BOOSTS

Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 24 Apr 84 p 9

[Text] The director general of employment and wages of the Labor Ministry (MITRAB), Carlos Perez, yesterday felt compelled to appeal strongly to employers, labor leaders and workers to combat the wage anarchy that exists in the country, which is being worsened by the salary boosts that some companies and institutions are arbitrarily authorizing.

Perez said that certain government institutions were being "inconsistent" in authorizing wage increases that cause "an irreversible inflationary wage spiral and restrict the application of the new policy that MITRAB and the National Trade Union Coordinating Board (CSN) have charted in this regard.

The director general praised the instructions that Commander Jaime Wheelock gave at the Ministry of Agricultural, Cattle Development and Agrarian Reform. He indicated that "all wage adjustment initiatives are hereby suspended in all their respects until the Government Junta sets forth national guidelines in this matter."

Perez reported that contrary to these instructions the Nicaraguan Institute of Social Security boosted wages in certain areas, "and even though we discussed the problem with them, the boosts could not be revoked," he said. "The private sector has been most respectful of the country's wage policy," he added.

Wage and Price Controls

A good wage policy must be accompanied by a good pricing policy, however, Perez contended, adding, "we must stop making foolish remarks and take specific action on prices" because the success of the wage policy is at stake here too.

"The workers and their leaders must focus their efforts on controlling prices and supplies. Commisary stores and direct pacts between the production companies and the others could be some of the control mechanisms. For example, a worker might buy a polo shirt for 150 cordobas at his

company instead of for 600 cordobas at the Eastern Market. The workers have to be given incentives in every regard," he added.

Returning to the problem of wages, Perez pointed out that a wage restructuring "does not imply a wage boost for everyone" but rather a realignment on a scientific basis in which the value of labor will be commensurate with its complexity.

Moreover, he added, the realignment is being done in stages; it will not be completed in a month. Each sector will have to wait its turn for the scale to be applied. It also depends on the honesty of the managers, by not resorting to subterfuges to boost wages, such as overtime not actually worked, fictitious per diem allowances, entertainment expenses and others. He also argued that the workers must not blackmail their companies by threatening to resign if their wages are not upped.

MITRAB hopes to have covered the country's 92 economic activities by the end of the year; this is the first phase of the Labor and Wage Organization, which involves applying the appropriate ratings and scales. After this, "we will start standardizing work and incentives, which is another complex problem," Perez concluded.

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CSO: 3248/622

SALES TAX RAISED ON VARIOUS GOODS, SERVICES

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 25 Apr 84 p 10

[Text] The Government Junta yesterday authorized a 5 percent increase in the General Sales Tax that 11 types of establishments charge on services.

Silvio Vargas, the director general of revenue, said that the following establishments would now charge a 15 percent sales tax: hotels and motels, restaurants, cafeterias, bars; night clubs, cabarets and other such night spots; land, air and aquatic vehicle rental companies, except cargo hauling and mass transit concerns; tire retreaders; laundries; insurance companies, but only for private car insurance; entertainment companies, except for amateur athletic contests; film rental businesses; publicity and advertising firms; computer rental and/or computer servicing companies, and photo studios.

The remaining public service establishments will continue to charge a 10 percent sales tax.

The new tax will earn the government an additional 105 million cordobas a year. The 10 percent tax in the above establishments brought in 208 million cordobas a year, and this figure will now rise to 313 million.

The director general explained that there are some 600 registered establishments in these areas in the country; before 19 July there were a little more than 100.

There are some 3,000 duly registered establishments in the commercial sector.

Revenues Up This Year

The revenue director commented at another point in the interview that the revolutionary state expects to take in 10 billion cordobas in taxes this year.

In the first quarter alone it took in 2.633 billion cordobas, which is 258 million more than projected.

Revenues are up the most from the income tax. Vargas explained that this stems from a clear-cut rise in the profits of the enterprises owned by the people.

This tax brought in 185 million cordobas during the first quarter of 1984.

He mentioned another factor: decentralization in the collection of the tax, inasmuch as everything previously had to be or was done in Managua.

He noted the new taxpayers have joined the rolls. The number registered has risen from 34,000 in 1983 to 40,000 this year.

He pointed out, however, that there has been a falloff in revenues in the regions of the country that are being hit by the war of aggression. This is due, of course, to the decline in production.

8743

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END